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WORK BEGINS ON MARY ROSE

Work begins today on the most ambitious heritage construction project seen in Europe this decade.

On the 28th anniversary of the raising of the Mary Rose, work to secure the future of King Henry VIII's favourite ship has started as part of a £16.3 million contract to build the new Mary Rose Museum in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard.

Warings, a member of the international construction and services group Bouygues, is delivering the construction phase of the £35 million project for the Mary Rose Trust, the charity responsible for the conservation of the Tudor flagship which sank in action in 1545.

Construction of the museum began 28 years to the day after the raising of the Mary Rose from her muddy tomb on the bed of the Solent, in front of a worldwide television audience of 60 million.

The build is a major step in the final chapter in the conservation of the great ship, a painstaking process which began in 1982. The museum, scheduled for completion in autumn 2012, will reunite the Mary Rose with the majority of the 19,000 beautifully preserved artefacts recovered with her, to present visitors with an unparalleled experience of Tudor life.

The Mary Rose Trust still has to raise further funds to secure the future of Henry VIII's flagship. The Trust is tasked with raising a total of £15 million to match fund the £21 million Heritage Lottery Fund grant, one of the largest made, which the new museum project has received. The Trust receives no central funding and is entirely reliant on donations to reach its ambitious final target.

Philippe Jouy, Warings Managing Director, added; "This is a unique project which will pose some unique challenges for our dedicated team. Not least is the immense care required to build a modern museum around the precious timbers of the ship as the final stages of its conservation continues. We are well-equipped with the necessary skills and expertise and are proud to be leading this landmark development to protect and preserve a British historic icon.

"The museum will represent the very best in 21st century architecture and construction, providing a beautiful and secure environment for the finest collection of 16th century artifacts in the world."

The new building housing the Mary Rose's fully conserved hull and her artefacts will take the form of a finely crafted wooden 'jewellery box', clad in timber planks. It will replace the current temporary museum located 300 metres away, which has space to display only one twentieth of the Tudor items recovered with the wreck.

During the construction of the new museum the Mary Rose is out of view to the public. When the new museum opens in 2012 the preserving chemical sprays that keep her shrouded in mist will be gone. The ship will be on display during the final phase of conservation – controlled air drying – until 2016 when her 34 year conservation process will be complete.

The existing Mary Rose Museum remains open during construction to offer an amazing visitor experience with more than 1,000 of the finest conserved artefacts recovered from the site.

To help secure the future of The Mary Rose visit ***www.maryrose.org***

GREAT WALL HOBBY 12.8cm PAK 44 L/55

Great Wall Hobby has announced the forthcoming release of a 1/35 scale WWII Krupp 12.8cm PaK 44 L/55 High Velocity Anti-Tank Gun.

This kit should be available in November as kit no. L3526.

A turned metal barrel will be available as a separate upgrade.

More details will be available in the next issue of Model Military International magazine.

Thanks to Great Wall Hobby via Guido Hopp for the information.

Great Wall Hobby products are available in the UK from The Airbrush Company

www.airbrushes.co.uk

1/35 WWII GERMAN KRUPP
12.8cm PAK 44 HIGH VELOCITY ANTI-TANK GUN
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ITEM No:L3526
WWII GERMAN KRUPP
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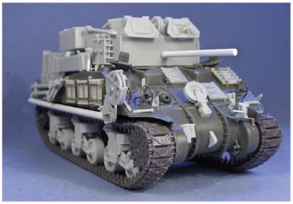
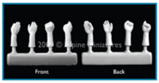
RESICAST SHERMAN ARV MK.II



Resicast has announced the release of set no. 35.1214, a Sherman ARV MK II conversion. This is designed for Tasca's M4A4, comprising over 120 resin pieces and 30 photo-etched parts. The price is €79.00. More information may be found on Resicast's website ***www.resicast.com***



Alpine Miniatures

ALPINE MINIATURES NEW RELEASES

Alpine Miniatures has five new releases for October 2010:

- 35108 WW2 US Infantry #1 (1/35) - MSRP $16.50 USD
- 35109 WW2 US Infantry #2 (1/35) - MSRP $16.50 USD
- 35110 WW2 US Infantry Set 2 figures (1/35) - MSRP $32.00 USD
- H003 Panzer Crew Heads & Hands (1/35) - MSRP $12.50 USD
- H004 US Helmet Heads & Hands (1/35) - MSRP $12.50 USD

For more info and images, check out Alpine's website ***www.alpineminiatures.com***

NEW RELEASES FROM ACCURATE ARMOUR

Accurate Armour has a stack of new releases over the last few months. These include:

- A104 – British WWII AFV Tools
- A129 – Fuel Drums
- A130 – Damaged Drums
- A131 – UK Mk.7 Helmets
- A132 – L85A2 & L22A2
- A134 – Colt Commander
- FS14 – Jackal Crew Set
- FS15 – Jackal / Coyote 4-Man Crew Set #1

More information may be found on Accurate Armour's website ***www.accurate-armour.com***

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These Ready Made Resin Ruined Buildings come unpainted but completely built apart from the optional window glazing. They make superb additions for dioramas and props for wargaming. Painting guides are supplied, but these can be painted in any colour using either Humbrol Enamels or Acrylics.

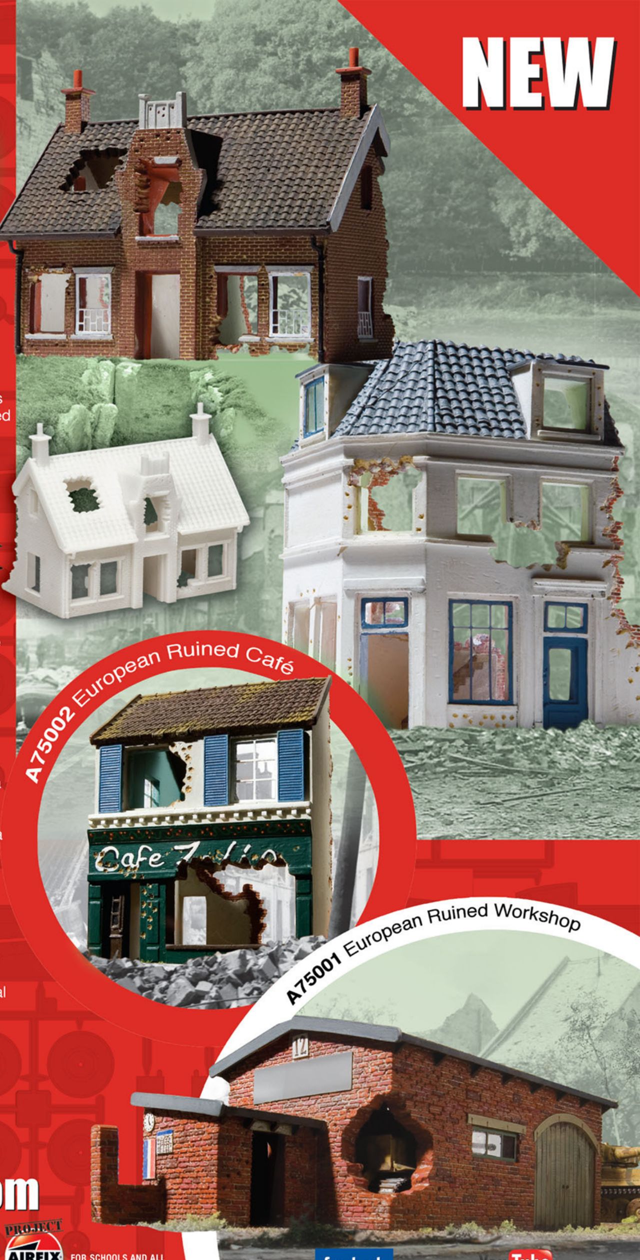
Humbrol
Acrylic
Humbrol
Enamel

A75004 1:76 SCALE
EUROPEAN COUNTRY COTTAGE RUIN
Small villages and hamlets were defended as ferociously as anywhere during WWII. This is based on a Dutch cottage from the period.

A01013 1:76 SCALE
EUROPEAN CORNER HOUSE RUIN
Any junction in any town across Europe would be fought over during the capture and re-capture in many a campaign and often private house were found at these points. The one depicted in this version is based on a typical Dutch design.

A75002 1:76 SCALE
EUROPEAN RUINED CAFÉ
Cafés are often found in central positions in many European towns, and were often damaged because of this, particularly during operations following D-Day. This design is typical of a French café.

A75001 1:76 SCALE
EUROPEAN RUINED WORKSHOP
Workshops are commonly found across much of Europe and many were used as hide-outs even when ruined. This is an example often found in Northern France.



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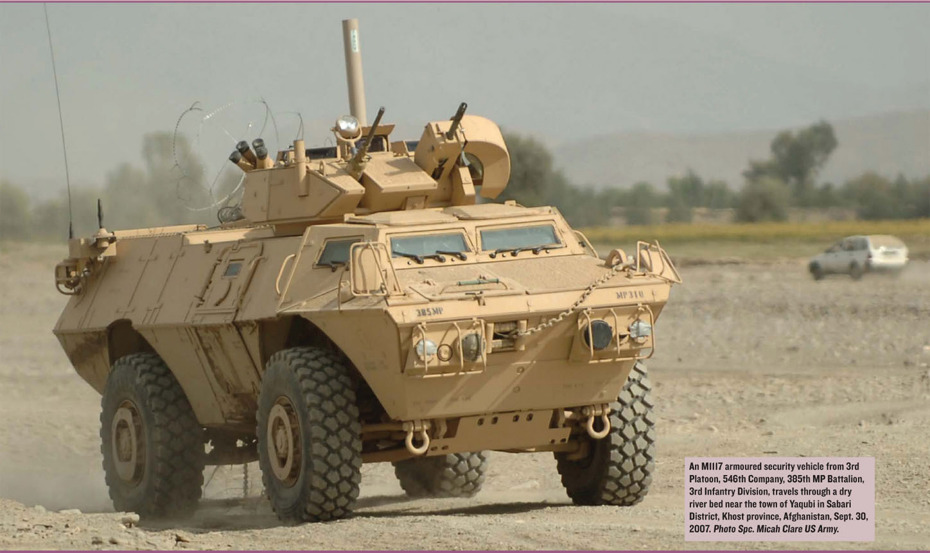


An M1117 armoured security vehicle from 3rd Platoon, 546th Company, 385th MP Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, travels through a dry river bed near the town of Yaqubi in Sabari District, Khost province, Afghanistan, Sept. 30, 2007. *Photo Spc. Micah Clare US Army.*

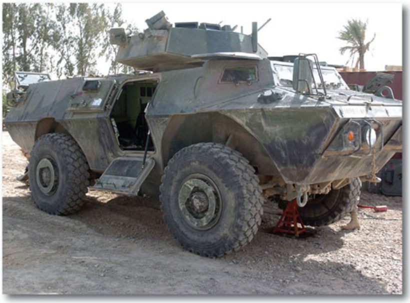
M1117 GUARDIAN ARMOURED SECURITY VEHICLE

Stuart Ransley examines the background, development and features of this increasingly important armoured vehicle, currently seeing service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

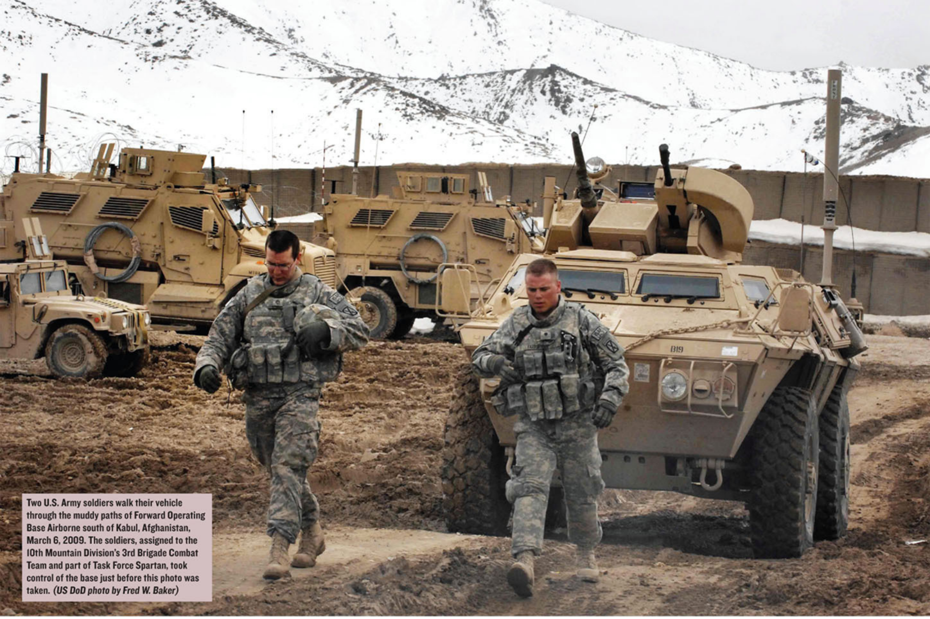
The US Army's experiences in Somalia led to the development of the armoured Humvee. This was due to the fact that traditional American military doctrine in the 1980s heavily emphasized armoured tanks and infantry fighting vehicles for front line combat, and unarmoured utility vehicles for transport and route security behind the lines. The Military Police Corps, tasked with patrolling the "safe" rear area behind the battle line insisted that the Army fund the production of the M1114 armoured Humvee. In 1999, the Army obtained a limited number of ASV-150 for the Military Police. The ASV-150 was derived from Cadillac Gage's previous V100/150 series, which was used in Vietnam for base security and convoy escort.

The ASV-150, or M1117, was first field tested in Kosovo by the 709th MP Battalion. While the field tests were successful, the program was cancelled in 2002 due to budget priorities. The M1117 cost $700,000 as compared to $140,000 for the M1114.

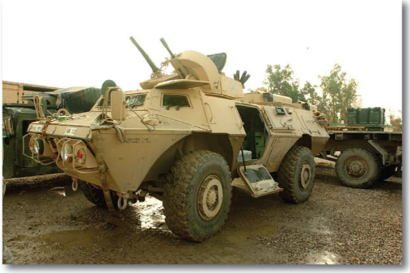
With the start of the Iraq War, the US Army believed that the M1114 armoured Humvee would be adequate for the MPs. Events quickly proved otherwise. The M1114 was vulnerable to IEDs, so with mounting casualties the M1117 ASV program was given a new lease of life. The vehicle has proven so successful that they are being used by several other military units including the Iraqi National Police ▶



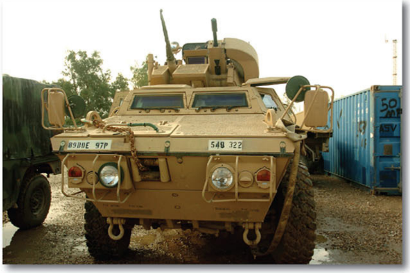
Right side view of an M1117 finished in three tone camouflage. This particular M1117 blew an o-ring in the wheel solenoid and was repaired at Camp Liberty, Iraq. *(U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Jeremy D. Crisp.)*



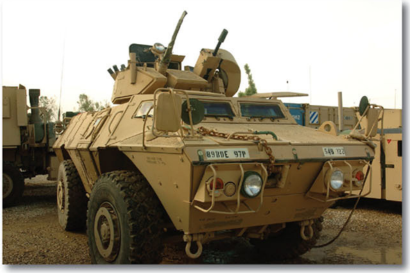
Two U.S. Army soldiers walk their vehicle through the muddy paths of Forward Operating Base Airborne south of Kabul, Afghanistan, March 6, 2009. The soldiers, assigned to the 10th Mountain Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team and part of Task Force Spartan, took control of the base just before this photo was taken. *(US DoD photo by Fred W. Baker)*



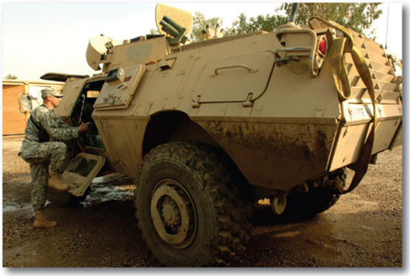
Left side of the ASV *(Photo by Sgt. Antonieta Rico US Dept of Defence)*



Front view of the ASV showing the bolt on armour panels. *(Photo by Sgt. Antonieta Rico US Dept of Defence)*

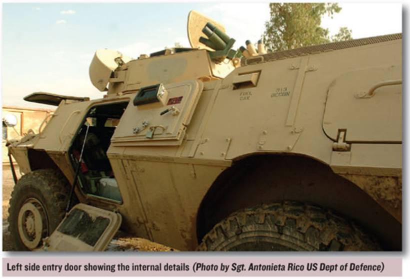


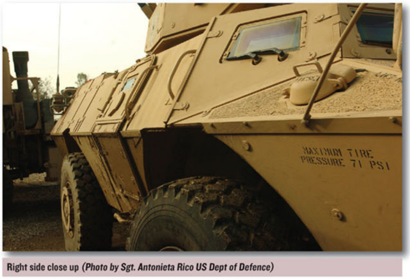
Front quarter view. Note the tube mounted on the right hand side of the turret. This is the pintle mounting for an M249 SAW or M240B LMG *(Photo by Sgt. Antonieta Rico US Dept of Defence)*



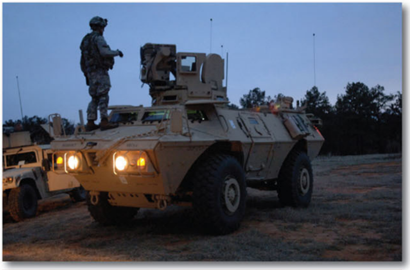
Left rear quarter view *(Photo by Sgt. Antonieta Rico US Dept of Defence)*

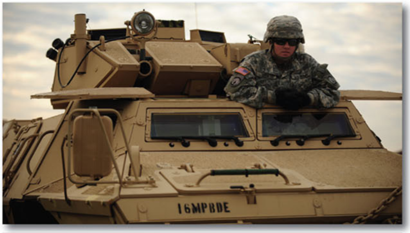
Think Tank - M1117 Guardian Armoured Security Vehicle


Left side entry door showing the internal details *(Photo by Sgt. Antonieta Rico US Dept of Defence)*



Right side close up *(Photo by Sgt. Antonieta Rico US Dept of Defence)*


Soldier of the Fire Support Cell, Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division loads into his newly acquired M1200 during Joint Readiness Training Center Jan. 15 at Fort Polk, La. The Colt team received the Night M1200 and other systems to enhance their capabilities and protection *(Photo by Spc. Richard Daniels Jr. US Army)*



U.S. Army Spc. Paula Cook, with 108th Military Police Company (Air Assault), 16th Military Police Brigade (Airborne), stands in the driver's hatch of an M1117 Guardian Armoured Security Vehicle 150 prior to departing Camp Atterbury, Ind., Nov. 6, 2009, on a convoy during exercise Vibrant Response. Vibrant Response is a field training exercise in which Department of Defense forces assist federal, state, local and tribal partners in saving lives, preventing further injury and providing temporary critical support to enable community recovery after a biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive incident. (US Army)

DESIGN

The M1117 has a Gross Vehicle Weight of 14.7 tonnes, is 6.07m long and 2.56m wide. The crew has 360 degree vision when closed up thanks to the vision ports around the hull and turret. The crew compartment is fully air conditioned.

In size and capability, the M1117 fits between the Humvee and the $1.42 million Stryker. The crew compartment is fully air-conditioned.

The M1117 is built by Textron in Louisiana.

PROTECTION

The M1117 provides greater protection than any other wheeled vehicle of its size. This is due to the external modular expandable armour system of ceramic composite material, which provides ballistic protection against 12.7mm armour-piercing ammunition. Extra panels can be added depending on the threat.

The M1117 provides overhead protection against 60mm mortar ammunition at 10 feet (3 meters) and 155mm ammunition at 50 feet (15 meters). It provides protection against anti personnel and antitank mines up to 12 pounds (5.4 kg) TNT or equivalent explosive.

Ballistic protection also includes a spall liner on the interior surfaces of the vehicle. In Iraq, M1117s have withstood several IED attacks, with one ASV reportedly driving 45 km after an IED blew out all 4 tyres!

MOBILITY

The M1117 features four-wheel independent suspension, power steering, power braking, a central tyre inflation system, engine fire-suppression system, a winch capable of conducting retrieval operations at 15,000 pounds (6,804 kg) with a snatch block and cable for self-recovery operations. The typical mission profile of the M1117 involves 80% roads and 20% cross-country conditions. The independent suspension provides smooth road speeds of up to 60 mph (97 km/h), it is capable of fording 5-foot (1.5 m) depths of water, climbing gradients of 60%, and overcoming obstacles of five feet. The M1117 is air-transportable by C-130 and larger aircraft, with six being able to fit on to a C-17 transport aircraft, fully loaded, ready to roll off.

CREW COMPARTMENT

The M1117 crew stations are designed for functionality, operability, and soldier comfort. The vehicle is fitted with an air conditioning system to enable continuous operations under all environmental extremes.

The M1117 incorporates a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) protection system (M13A1) consisting of four gas particulate ventilated face pieces with interface for radio and crew intercommunications.

The M1117 has a crew of three and room for one passenger.

When the vehicle is configured

U.S. military troops aboard a float, an M1117 Guardian Armoured Security Vehicle, passing a crowd of onlookers during an inaugural Christmas parade at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Dec. 25, 2008. Floats built by various organizations on base were judged during the event.
(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Epley/Released)

for combat operations with a full complement of ammunition, water, sustenance, and combat equipment, the ability to carry the passenger is lost.

UP GUNNED WEAPONS STATION UGWS, 40/50 TURRET

The M1117's armament consists of a one-person turret armed with an M2 50-calibre machine gun and a MK19 MOD 3 40mm automatic grenade launcher. 200 12.7mm (50 cal) rounds and 96 40mm grenades are stowed ready to fire in the turret with an additional 600 12.7mm rounds and 576 40mm grenades carried in the hull of the vehicle. The turret traverses 360° and both weapons systems have an elevation arc of +45° to - 8°. The Mk19 mod 3 has a rate of fire from 325 to 375 rounds per minute and has an efective range of 2200 meters.

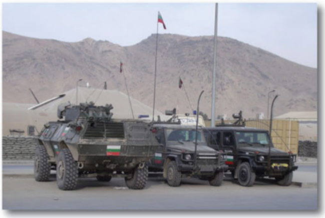
The M2 50 cal machine gun has an effective range of 1830 meters and a rate of fire of 450 to 550 rounds per minute. This weapon may also be used to range targets for the MK19. This is extremely effective in marking and suppressing the target. The day/night target acquisition and fire control system allows the gunner to engage targets at the maximum effective ranges of both weapons.

The M36 sight has a 7-power magnification with a reticle calibrated for both weapons to include right hand drift of the 40mm grenade downrange. The sight is laser protected but is not fitted with a laser range finder. There are seven laser protected vision blocks arranged around the turret hatch which provide the gunner with a 360° view when the hatch is closed.

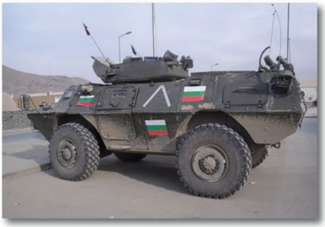
A 500,000 candle power spot light, with a maximum range of 1500 meters is mounted above the 50 cal M2. This spot light is linked to the .50 cal and moves in elevation with it. The turret also includes an M249 squad automatic weapon pintle mount on the right hand side and the M257 Light Vehicle Obscuration Smoke System. This system consists of a bank of four 66mm electrically operated smoke grenade dischargers. These are located on both sides of the rear of the turret.

The M1117 has been so successful that it is now being used by several other countries including Iraq, Bulgaria and Romania.There are several other variants in existance including:

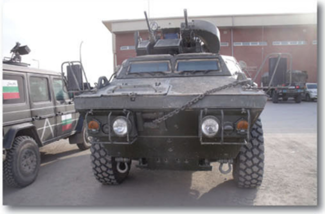
- Command & Control
- Recovery Vehicle
- Reconnaissance Surveillance & Target Acquisition (RSTA) ▶



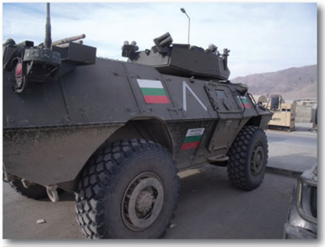
Here are some photos of a Bulgarian Guardian Armoured Security Vehicle at Kabul International Airport. This is part of the Quick Reaction Force that is prepared to respond to any type of emergency, typically within ten minutes or less. These four photographs were taken in early 2010 *(photo – Joel Russ)*.



This Bulgarian Guardian is finished in overall Dark Green. Note that the national markings are in the stick on, peel off style *(photo – Joel Russ)*.



The 40 mm Mk.19 grenade launcher and the .50 caliber M2HB heavy machine gun may be seen from this view. Other Bulgarian M1117s have been fitted with the NSVT heavy machine gun instead of the M2. The towing chain is of interest too *(photo – Joel Russ)*.



The M1117 is fitted with a cluster of smoke launchers on each rear corner of the turret *(photo – Joel Russ)*.

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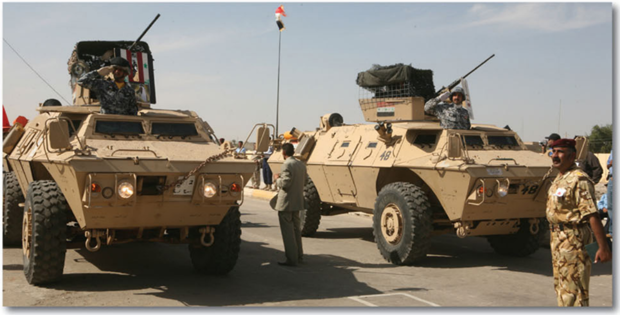
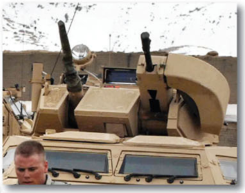
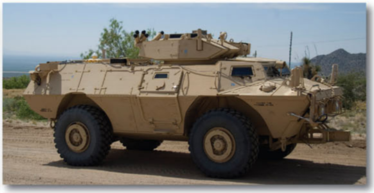
There is one other variant of the M1117 that has entered service with the US Military, the M1200. This vehicle is used by Forward Observers to direct laser guided and conventional ordnance. The M1200 uses the same hull as the M1117 but has a different turret containing the sensor suite used to locate and designate targets to be engaged with either Artillery or air to ground ordnance.

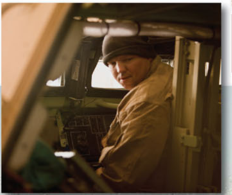
SOURCES

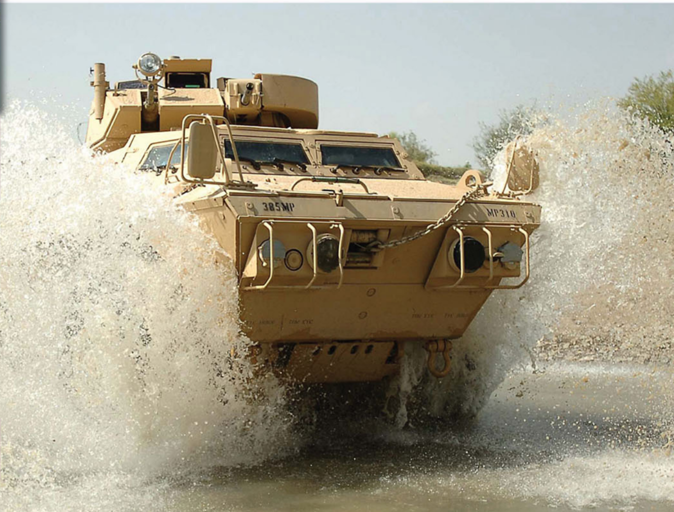
- FM3-19.6 Armoured Security Vehicle, May 2006, US Defence Dept
- M1117 Armoured Security Vehicle Datasheet, Textron Marine and Land Systems
- Guardian in Detail. Ralph Zwilling, Wings and Wheels Publications
- Iraq Insurgency. US Army Armoured Vehicles in Action, Part 1. Mini Colour Series 7518, Concord Publications
- DefenceImagery.mil
- dvids, Defence Video and Imagery Distribution System. http://www.dvidshub.net ■


Iraqi army soldiers drive light armoured vehicles in a parade in Ramadi, Iraq, October 23, 2007. The parade is for the citizens to celebrate the city's rebirth and fortieth day since the death of Sheik Satar Abu Risha *(Photo: U.S. Marine Corps by Lance Cpl. Julian Billmair)*.


Cadillac gage one metre turret, mounting a machine gun and an automatic grenade launcher. Alternatively, this turret can also mount a .30 calibre machine gun paired with a .50 calibre machine gun.


This M1117 completed a series of tests on White Sands Missile Range in mid-2010 to evaluate a new system installed on it, including a special camera system for the driver. The tests were conducted to evaluate the vulnerability of the new systems and their compatibility with existing systems *(U.S. Army photo by Drew Hamilton)*.


U.S. Army Spc. Jeffrey Barnes, Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment, troubleshoots an electrical problem on an M1117 armoured security vehicle at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, Feb. 12, 2009. *(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. John A. Krake/Released)*.



M1117 of the U.S. Army's 3rd Platoon, 546th Company, 385th Military Police Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division near Yaqubi, Afghanistan. On 30 September 2007 *(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Micah E. Clare)*.

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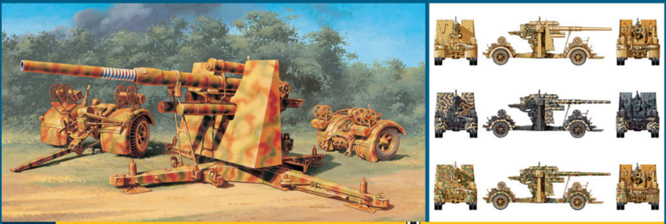
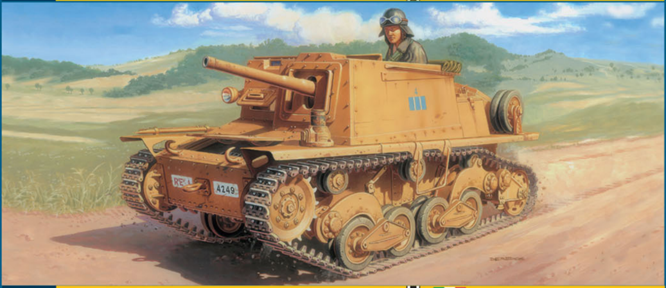
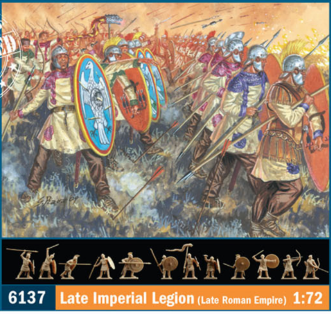


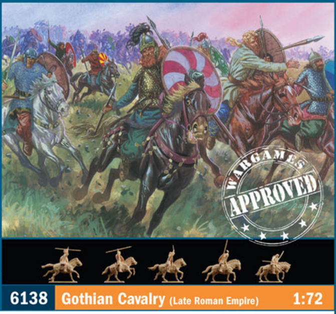
6602 8.8 cm Flak 37 AA Gun *version for* 1:48



6477 Semovente L40 da 47/32 *version for* 1:35



6137 Late Imperial Legion (Late Roman Empire) 1:72



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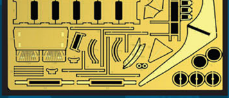
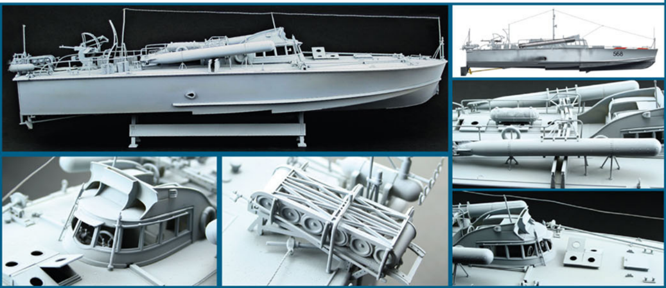


Photo Etched Fret



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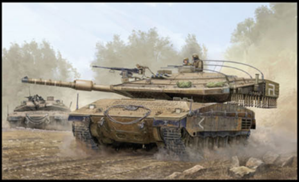
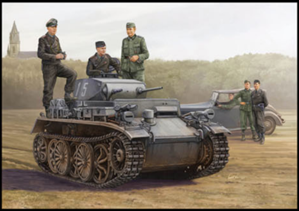
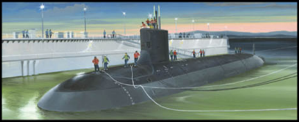


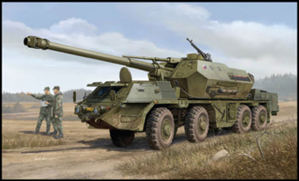
HBB82429 1:35 Israeli Merkava Mk IV



HBB82431 1:35 PzKpfw I Ausf. C (VK 601)



HBB83513 1:350 USS Virginia SSN-774



HBB85501 1:35 152mm ShkH DANA Vz.77

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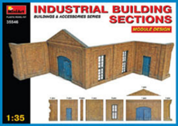
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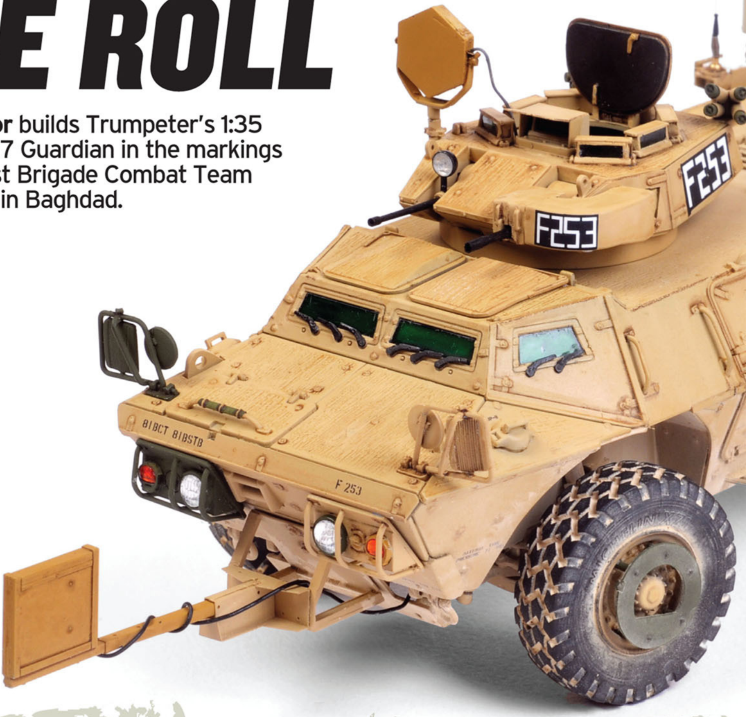
THIS IS HOW WE ROLL

The Editor builds Trumpeter's 1:35 scale M1117 Guardian in the markings of the 81st Brigade Combat Team on patrol in Baghdad.



The M1117 Guardian is an all-wheel drive Armoured Security Vehicle manufactured by Cadillac Gage, a division of the American manufacturing conglomerate Textron.

The M1117 is a development of the Cadillac Gage V100/150 family. Enhancements include advanced modular expandable armour, comprising ceramic composite appliqué on the exterior and spall liner for the air-conditioned interior. Armament is a 40 mm Mk.19 grenade launcher and a .50 calibre M2HB in a fully enclosed turret.

The Guardian initially entered service in 1999 in small numbers with US Army Military Police Corps. However, the vulnerability of even upgraded Humvees to small arms fire and IEDs has led to the expanded use of the M1117 in front line units.

WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

Trumpeter's 1:35 scale M1117 Guardian is made up from 303 parts in well-moulded light grey plastic, 23 parts in clear, two frets of photo-etched brass, five black vinyl parts and a 100mm length of copper chain.

I assumed that this Trumpeter release would have some commonality with the HobbyBoss family of Commando armoured cars, but I was wrong. This is an all-new kit.

The main hull is split into upper and lower sections, over which separate appliqué armour sections are applied. Photo-etched armour is also supplied for armour inside the wheel well and on the lower hull. I was impressed with the non-slip surfaces moulded to the hull and turret parts. The texture looks just right.

Hull and turret hatches are separate, but the interior is completely barren. I imagine that it will not take long for the after-market to fill this space. The kit offers the option of solid or photo-etched grilles. I think the photo-etched part looks great, but you will want to blank off the engine bay to avoid that pesky see-through look.

Tyres are supplied in flexible black vinyl. An optional flexible black 40 mm ammo belt is also offered.

The suspension parts are well detailed. They seem to be designed for the wheels to be fixed in the straight-ahead position.

Vision blocks are separate clear parts.

Smaller details are also very well

M1117 Guardian Armored Security Vehicle (ASV)
1/35 SCALE

Trumpeter's 1:35 scale M1117 Guardian ASV was released in late 2009.

LEGEND productions
Rhino Anti IED Device (for M1117)
GUARDIAN
PAINT MASK
1/7/1200 WHEELS
NEW WORLD
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VOYAGER MODEL
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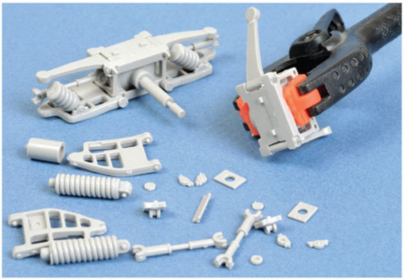
Plenty of after market accessories are available for Trumpeter's M1117. I used bits from almost all of them!



The suspension is fiddly in places and the small parts need to be carefully cleaned up before assembly, but the final result is pleasing.

done. The various light guards are moulded in fine delicate plastic. These look great on the model.

Markings are supplied for two vehicles plus a bunch of generic numbers and letters. These will come in handy for the spares box.

AFTERMARKET GOODIES

Although Trumpeter's M1117 Guardian looked very nice in the box, I still accumulated a decent stockpile of aftermarket in the months after the kit's release. First to arrive was Voyager's photo-etched upgrade, which also included exquisite turned metal and resin smoke grenade launchers and beautiful antenna bases.

Next I bought Blast Models' M1117 Guardian Update. This supplies a number of interesting electronic countermeasure masts, a Long Range Acoustic Hailing Device, stowage and the base for a Rhino anti-IED device, all in resin. These would lend character and individuality to my Guardian.

Legend Productions' etched metal and resin Rhino device was almost compulsory too.

Echelon Fine Details offer a decal set for two vehicles, so that was added to the growing pile. While I was on their website, I noticed that Echelon produces a set of self-adhesive metallic mirror lenses and light reflectors plus painting masks for this kit. These also found their way into my shopping cart.

A number of resin after-market replacement wheels are available for the M1117, but I finally decided on New World Miniatures offering.

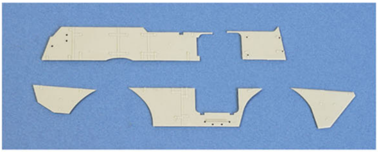
With all the aftermarket goodies now acquired, I had no excuse not to start building.

GETTING IT TOGETHER

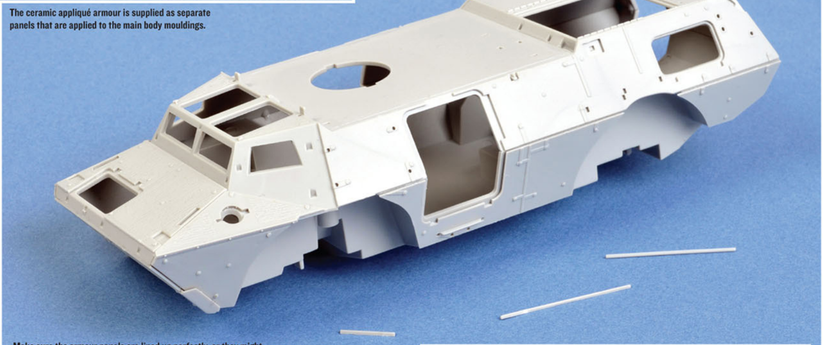
Construction gets underway with the fairly intricate front and rear suspension units. Even before the first pieces are glued together, it is essential to carefully examine and prepare the plastic parts. A number of the smaller parts in my kit suffered from very fine flash, almost invisible sometimes, but enough to interfere with perfect fit if not thoroughly cleaned up prior to assembly.

You will really need to pay attention to the instructions in order to keep the correct order and orientation of the suspension parts.

Whether you are using the kit wheels or aftermarket items, I would suggest that you leave the wheels off until the model has been painted. I glued the wheel mounts – Parts A3 and A55 – to ▶



The ceramic appliqué armour is supplied as separate panels that are applied to the main body mouldings.



Make sure the armour panels are lined up perfectly, or they might interfere with the fit of the doors or the centreline horizontal strips.

the suspension units at this stage though. This made it easier to attach the steering arms later in construction.

If you want to pose the wheels steered to the left or right, simply attach parts A3 and A55 offset to the angle that you desire.

Assembling the body was quite straightforward. The larger parts were completely free of flash and fit was perfect. All the ceramic armour plates are supplied as separate panels, so care is required to line these up perfectly. If you don't, they may interfere with the fit of the hatches or the horizontal tie-downs and bumper strips.

The big engine vent is open to the empty body of the vehicle. Before I glued down the top deck of the body (Part C17), I blanked off this big opening by flipping the alternative solid plastic grille, Part C9, upside-down and gluing it to the inside of the engine bay.

The instructions would have you glue the handholds around the engine grille during Step 6, but I would recommend that you leave these off until just before painting. The same applies to the windscreen wipers in Step 7, and to the hatch and hull handholds in Steps 8 and 9. I managed to break off several delicate parts while handling the model in subsequent construction. I also built the front mirrors, headlight units and the caged tail lights as sub-assemblies but did not actually fit them until later.

Voyager's upgrade set includes a replacement grille with a finer pattern than Trumpeter's photo-etched part. I installed Voyager's grille but found reference photos that suggested that Trumpeter's interpretation looked more accurate. I ripped out the Voyager photo-etch and replaced it with the Trumpeter part. There was some scarring around the area where I removed the Voyager grille, so I added some fine plastic strip around the Trumpeter photo-etched part to hide the damage.

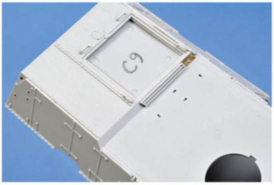
The rows of loops are moulded as solid parts, but they look good after painting and weathering.

20 20 VISION

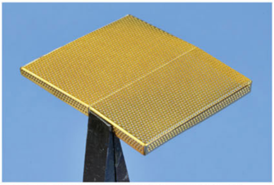
In my opinion, one of the most critical elements of any modern vehicle is tinted armoured glass. Clear parts that are smeared with glue or painted unconvincingly can ruin an otherwise nice model. I wanted to avoid this problem.

I started by dipping all the clear parts into Future floor polish. The benefit of Future is twofold. First, the parts are treated to a smooth surface and a sparkling shine. Also, after applying Future, the clear plastic will not fog up if you secure the parts using super glue.

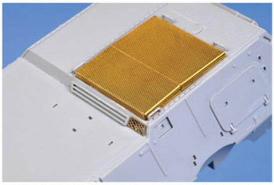
The second step was to tint the vision blocks. Two generous coats of Tamiya X-25 Clear Green were brush painted onto the rear of each vision block. I find that these clear colours can retain some texture or



The big engine vent is open under the photo-etched grille. This area was blanked off by flipping the alternative solid plastic grille, Part C9, upside-down and gluing it to the inside of the engine bay.



The engine deck grille with its round holes looks unusual but is actually a very good representation of the real thing.



The photo-etched grille is glued into a recess on the engine deck. It fits well.

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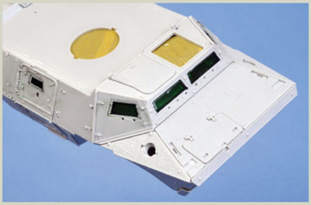
(abobe) The tinted armoured glass on the M1117 is very prominent, so extra planning went into ensuring a seamless and convincing finish. The clear vision blocks were first dipped in Future floor polish, allowed to dry then coated on the back surface only with Tamiya X-25 Clear Green.

(right) Echelon Fine Products offer a set of self-adhesive masks for the Guardian's windows and vision blocks. These were applied to the clear parts prior to painting.

(far right) Trumpeter's photo-etched fret includes armour plates for the inside of the wheel arches.

The insides of the window rims were painted Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black before the vision blocks were installed.



The vision blocks were secured with a sparing application of super glue. Note that the turret opening and the driver's hatch have been masked off from the inside with Tamiya tape. This will prevent paint overspray from marring the inside of those nice green transparencies.

FOR M1117 GUARDIAN ASV
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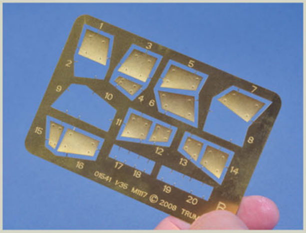
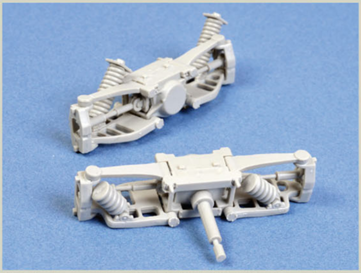
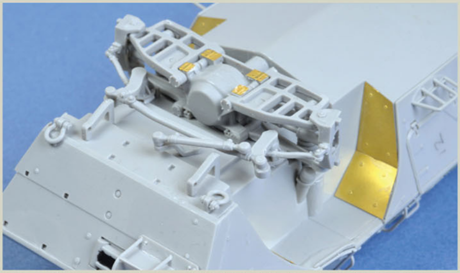
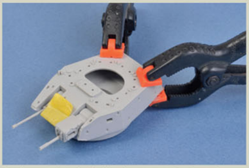




The front and rear suspension units just prior to fitting. Note that the wheel mounts on the front suspension have been offset. This will allow the front wheels to be turned to the right.

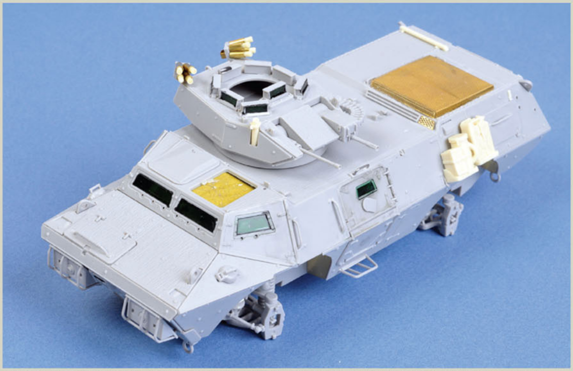


The armour plate and front suspension in place. Installing the steering mechanism is fiddly, but not too difficult with appropriate patience and care.

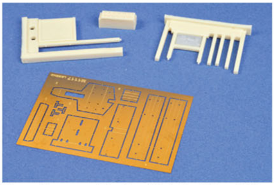


Similar to the hull, the Cadillac Gage turret is built up in layers.

The clear parts for the turret periscopes were fitted before the grey plastic parts were cut from the sprues. The Echelon painting masks were also applied while the parts were on the sprues.

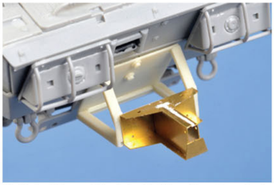


Now it is looking like a Guardian! The box, bottle and jerry can are from the Blast Model update, while the resin and turned brass 66mm smoke grenade launchers are from Voyager Model.



These are the components from Legend Productions Rhino anti-IED device. The photo-etched parts must be folded to deliver the mount for the Rhino.

I saved a little time by using the one-piece base mount provided in the Blast update set.



The Blast resin base and the photo-etched Legend mount were glued to the front of the M1117 prior to painting. Note that the front light assemblies are only test-fitted – they have not been glued in place yet.

sometimes cover unevenly, so if only the back of the part is painted, the front surface will remain nice and smooth.

The third step was to paint the inside rim of the vision block frames using Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black. This is insurance against being able to see the edge of the pale grey plastic through the semi-transparent vision block after assembly.

Now the vision blocks were clipped from their sprues and secured to their appliqué panels (Parts B2, B13 and B19) with small spots of super glue. The panels were then glued to the body with Revell Contacta Professional cement.

Finally, the tinted blocks were covered with Echelon's die-cut self-adhesive painting masks.

The process was repeated for the turret periscope lenses.

The balance of construction was quite fast and straightforward.

The turret fitted together well, but I wondered why Trumpeter had included an optional flexible ammunition belt for the 40 mm grenade launcher. I eventually figured it out when the solid plastic version immobilised the hitherto elevating guns. If you want the guns to elevate after assembly, use the flexible ammo belt (Part R).

Voyager's lovely turned bass and resin smoke launchers replaced the kit items.

Legend's Rhino device includes a mount made up from multiple resin and photo-etched parts. Although Blast Models' upgrade does not include the Rhino device itself, it does provide a one-piece resin mount. Being essentially a lazy modeller, I decided to use the easier one-piece option from Blast. After cleanup, this was super-glued to the front of the vehicle.

DANCE OF THE SEVEN VEILS

Painting a single colour vehicle is fraught with danger. At one extreme, we can be left with a very dull, monotone finish. At the other end of the spectrum we might wind up with excessive highlighting and weathering on a vehicle that would have generally been fairly clean and well maintained.

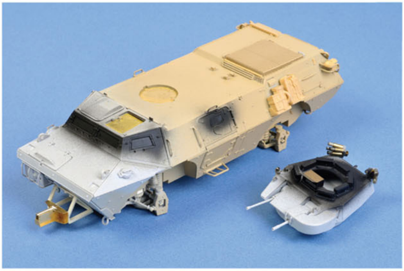
I wanted to tread a careful path between these two poles, delivering a finish that was not only visually appealing, but also remained in the realm of reality.

A number of reference photos show desert camouflaged M1117 Guardians with mirrors, headlight assemblies and electronic countermeasures painted in different shades. This would help break up the single colour finish.

Even a single-colour camouflage finish relies on subtle layers of paint and weathering to obtain a convincing result. Unlike the Dance of the Seven Veils, however, we will be adding layers to reveal the beauty of our subject.

VEIL 1: PRIMER COAT.

In fact, I initially decided that I would skip the primer step. As fate would have it, as I sprayed the camouflage colour, the paint started to draw away from the edges and pool in the middle of the unprepared plastic surfaces. This probably had as much to do with the humid rainy weather as the paint itself, but I decided to start again and apply a coat of Tamiya Grey Primer straight from the can. Even in difficult weather conditions, the primer offers the subsequent layers of paint "tooth" to grip to the surfaces.



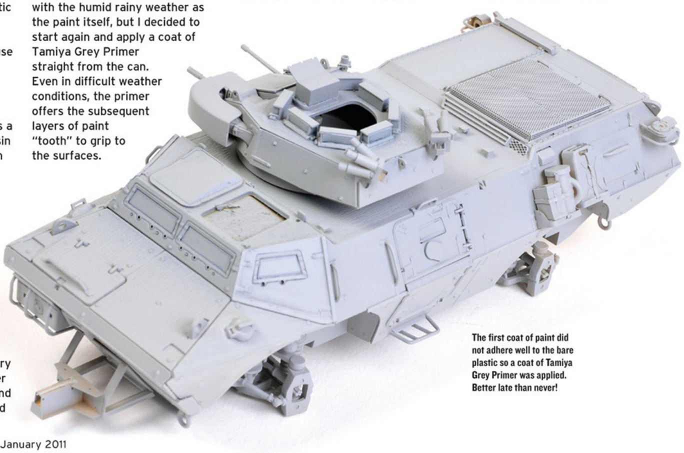
The masked clear parts were sprayed black before the camouflage was sprayed just in case there was leakage through the masks. Tamiya Spray TS-46 Light Sand was used for the main camouflage shade.

VEIL 2: CAMOUFLAGE COLOUR.

The basic camouflage colour was Tamiya's TS-46 Light Sand in the spray can. This acrylic lacquer was decanted into a glass jar and applied with my new Iwata HP-CH airbrush. This paint needed three thin coats to cover completely, but the finish is worth the extra time.

The base colour was mixed with a few drops of white primer and this paler shade of sand was applied in random patches, spots and streaks to lend some slight variation to the single overall tone.

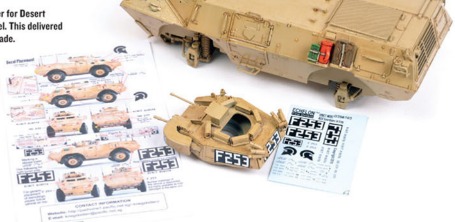
I also painted some of the smaller details at this stage, including the Blast Models jerry can, bottle and box on the rear port side. Vallejo acrylics were used for this job. The Dayglo orange on the plastic bottle was mixed from Vallejo red and yellow.



The first coat of paint did not adhere well to the bare plastic so a coat of Tamiya Grey Primer was applied. Better late than never!

The Tamiya spray colour was decanted into a glass jar and applied – much more successfully this time – to the primed surface.

A thin coat of Sin Industries' Brown Filter for Desert Yellow was brushed over the entire model. This delivered very subtle variation on the basic tan shade.



The model was sprayed with two coats of Future floor polish in preparation for the Echelon decals.

VEIL 3: FILTER.

The purpose of a filter is to add subtle variety to the base colour. Sin Industries' P402 Brown Filter for Desert Yellow was applied sparingly with a wide soft clean brush over the entire model, taking care to keep clear of the vision blocks and periscopes. The filter did a particularly good job over the non-slip textured surfaces.

VEIL 4: GLOSS COAT AND DECALS.

Future Floor Polish was sprayed over the model in preparation for Echelon's decals. This decal sheet offers full markings for two vehicles of the 81st Brigade Combat Team, including stencils.

I liked the look of F253, with its big black and white ID panels on the turret, but I could not find a reference photo of this particular vehicle at the time I was painting it. I therefore decided to opt for artistic licence and add the various electronic countermeasures, aerials and the Rhino and hailing devices. Of course, once I had gone beyond the point of no return, I found a photo of F253 in clean configuration and apparently with no mis-matched mirrors or headlights.

The decals behaved impeccably over the glossy Future flat coat.

VEIL 5: SELECTIVE OIL WASH.

An oil wash can easily overpower a pale single colour so I was not sure if I should bother with this step. In the end, I decided to go ahead but I was very conscious of the restraint required. A thin mix of Winsor & Newton Lamp Black and Raw Umber was prepared and applied over the gloss finish with a fine brush along structural surfaces and the edges of hatches. Where the effect looked too intense, I went over the oil wash with a brush dipped in Pure Gum Turpentine.

VEIL 6: FLAT COAT.

Gunze H20 Flat Clear was sprayed in three fine coats to restore the lustreless finish of the model.

VEIL 7: PASTELS AND CHIPPING.

Mig Pigments' P030 Beach Sand and P415 Light European Dust were mixed 50/50. Water was gradually added and the resulting slurry was applied with an old brush (you won't be using it for fine paintwork after this) to the lower hull, inside the wheel arches and the suspension.

Once the water had evaporated, the chalky residue was mostly scrubbed off with a stiff brush so that only sandy remnants were left behind.

A brown artist's pencil was used to suggest wear on some of the heavily trafficked edges of the vehicle.

THIS IS HOW WE ROLL

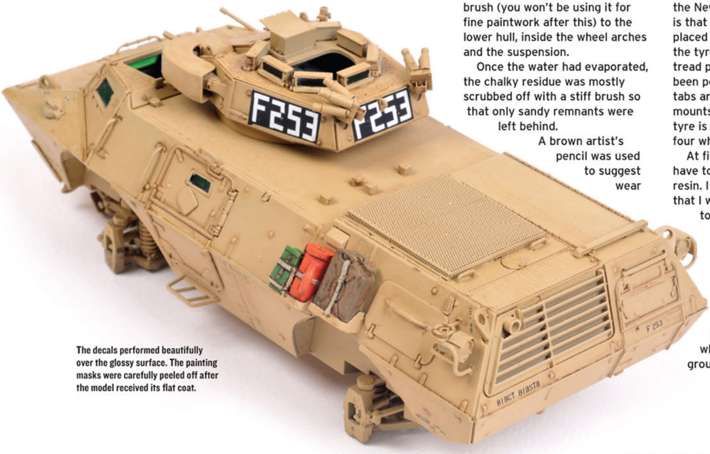
The big wheels are a prominent feature of the M1117 Guardian. New World Miniatures' resin wheels are larger in diameter and in girth than the kit wheels. The raised wheel rim is more prominent too, and of course the replacement wheels have the advantage of being all-resin (Trumpeter's tyres are vinyl). They are a definite improvement over the kit parts.

The wheels were painted with the aid of home-made masks made from Post-It Notes and an Olfa circle cutter. Pastels were applied prior to the wheels being glued to the model.

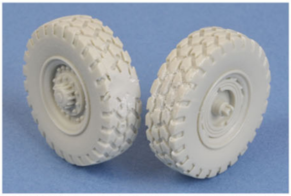
Just about my only criticism of the New World Miniatures wheels is that the pour stubs are randomly placed around the circumference of the tyres, resulting in a gap in the tread pattern where the resin has been poured. When the locating tabs are lined up with the wheel mounts, this chunk of untextured tyre is quite visible on three of the four wheels.

At first, I thought that I would have to carve the pattern into the resin. I was telling Andrew Judson that I was not looking forward to this little job when he suggested, "Why don't you just cut off all the locating tabs and glue the wheels on with the pour stubs at the bottom?"

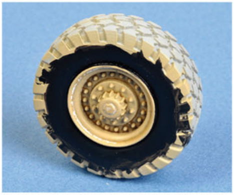
Why not indeed! I did just that, taking extra care to ensure that all four wheels were touching the ground. ▶



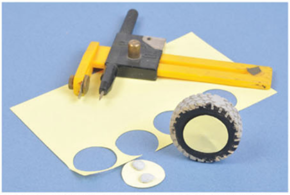
The decals performed beautifully over the glossy surface. The painting masks were carefully peeled off after the model received its flat coat.



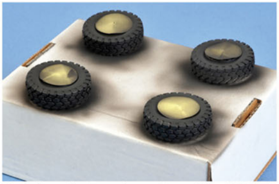
New World Miniatures' resin wheels are better than the kit items in terms of both dimensions and detail. Note the gap in the tread pattern where the resin was poured into the mould. I attempted to restore this tread pattern, rather crudely, using a saw and a knife.



The wheel was primed and sprayed Light Tan. The sidewall was partially brush-painted with a dark mix of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown.



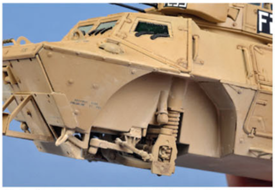
Masks was made from Post-It Notes using an Olfa Circle Cutter. These were applied to one side of the wheel.



The wheels were then temporarily secured to a small box with Blu-Tack and the rest of the tyre was sprayed with the dark mix.

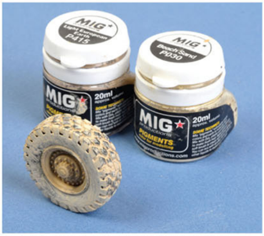
The result is a nice clean wheel and tyre. The not-quite-100% paint coverage on the inside of the rim and the top of the hub cover looked a bit like pale sand residue, so I did not fix it.

The locating post for the steering was cut off the inside of each wheel.

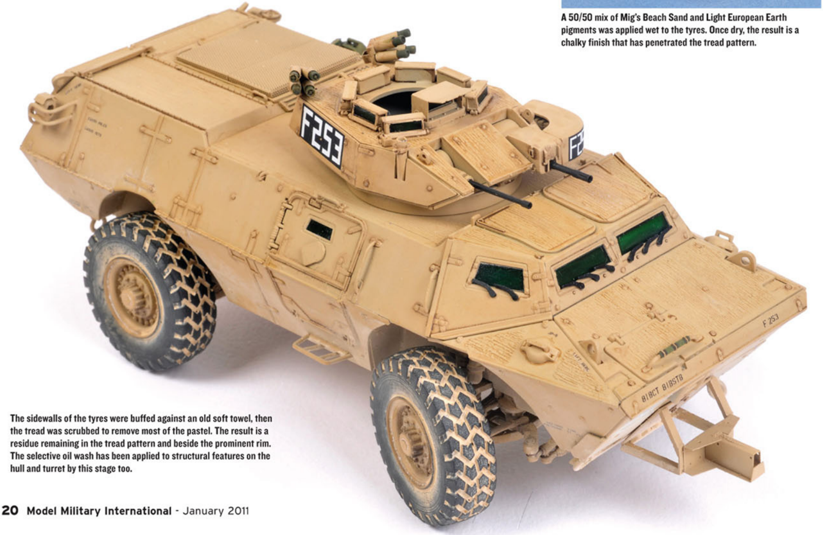


The locating tabs were also cut off the wheel mounts. This simple surgery permitted the wheels to be glued in place with the pour stubs rotated to the bottom of the tyre, effectively hiding them.

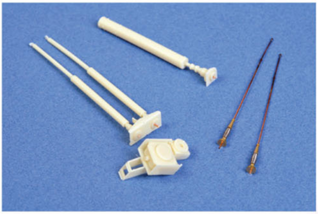
The armoured wheel covers were painted at this point too. They were lightly weathered with a thin oil wash.



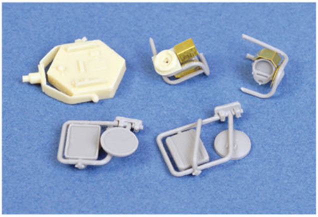
A 50/50 mix of Mig's Beach Sand and Light European Earth pigments was applied wet to the tyres. Once dry, the result is a chalky finish that has penetrated the tread pattern.

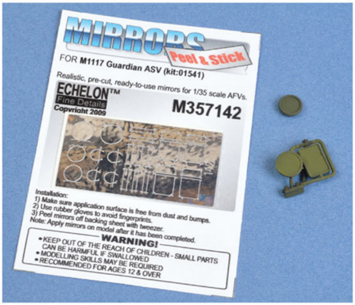


The sidewalls of the tyres were buffed against an old soft towel, then the tread was scrubbed to remove most of the pastel. The result is a residue remaining in the tread pattern and beside the prominent rim. The selective oil wash has been applied to structural features on the hull and turret by this stage too.


Here are some of the resin ECM devices from the Blast upgrade set. Note that the resin parts have been drilled and reinforced with copper wire. The beautiful three-piece antenna bases are from the Voyager set.

The smaller details were attached to a box using Blu-Tack and sprayed. This method avoids fingerprints on hard-to-handle parts, and reduces the risk of misplacing this minutiae.


Blast Models' hailing device, plus the kit's mirrors and tail light assemblies.


MIRRORS

Peel & Stick

FOR **M1117 Guardian ASV (kit:01541)**

Realistic, pre-cut, ready-to-use mirrors for 1/35 scale AFVs.

ECHELON™

Fine Details

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M357142

Installation:

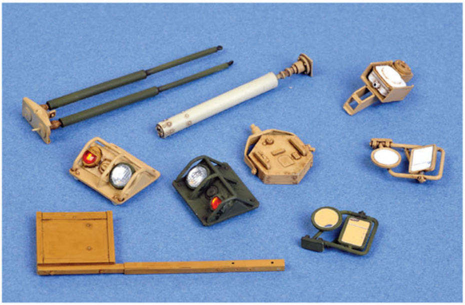
1) Make sure application surface is free from dust and bumps.
2) Use rubber gloves to avoid fingerprints.
3) Peel mirrors off backing sheet with tweezer.

Note: Apply mirrors on model after it has been completed.

WARNING!

- KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN - SMALL PARTS CAN BE HARMFUL IF SWALLOWED
- MODELLING SKILLS MAY BE REQUIRED
- RECOMMENDED FOR AGES 12 & OVER

Echelon Fine Details undersells its Peel and Stick Mirror set. It includes headlight, indicator and brake light reflectors too! These self-adhesive metallic accessories work very well and look great when finished.


Some of the detail parts painted, weathered and ready for final assembly. Many desert camouflaged Guardians in Iraq and Afghanistan feature some components painted in dark green.

THAT DREADED FINAL FIVE PERCENT

Do you know the feeling? Decals and flat coat are on, even the weathering is done, but that last 5% seems to take forever to finish.

In this case, my 5% was the Rhino device, the mirror assemblies, headlights, aerials and electronic countermeasures. I had to keep telling myself not to rush, as these details would add much to the impact of the overall vehicle.

The parts were dutifully painted and weathered. The little windscreen wipers were sprayed flat back and attached using Gator's Grip acrylic glue. The starboard side mirrors and headlight were painted green (Tamiya's XF-67 NATO Green mixed with a spot of Desert Yellow), as were the port side rear ECM masts and smoke cartridges. The thicker of the ECM masts was painted a pale buff colour in accordance with a photo that I found online. The box directly in front of this mast was painted white. A bright green spot was added in a corner with the tip of a toothpick. This detail was found in Ralph Zwilling's handy WWP book, "Guardian in Detail".

Just for a little more variety, I painted the panel and strut for the Rhino device in a darker shade of sand – in this case a 50/50 mix of Tamiya XF-59 Desert Yellow and XF-60 Dark Yellow.

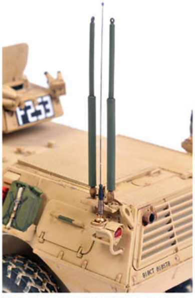
This was the first time that I had used Echelon's peel and stick mirrors, but it won't be the last. They were brilliant – quite literally! The inclusion of reflectors for the headlights, indicators and taillights was a real bonus too. The indicator and tail light lenses were painted Tamiya Clear Orange and Clear Red respectively. The clear parts were glued on top of the reflectors using a few small spots of Gator's Grip acrylic adhesive.

Voyager's brass and metal spring antenna mounts looked so attractive in bare metal that I could hardly bring myself to paint them. In the end, I only painted the top sections black, adding a dark oil wash to the springs and to the solid brass bases.

All the painted bits and pieces were finally glued to the body and the turret of the Guardian.

Electrical cables for the white box at the back of the vehicle, for the hailing device and for the Rhino were added from two different thicknesses of fuse wire.

Another one bites the dust – or perhaps more appropriately in this case, the sand! ▶


The two resin narrow ECM masts are from Blast Models. I replaced my first attempt at aerial wire with 0.2mm nickel silver rod from Albion Alloys, topped with a small blob of Micro Kristal Klear. This was painted grey.

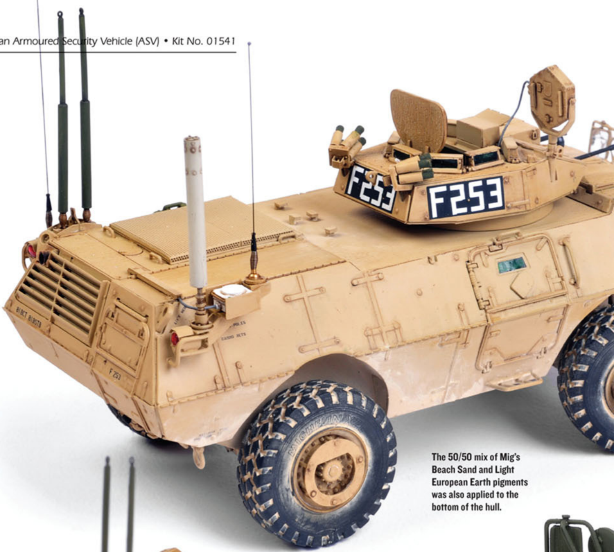
CONCLUSION

Trumpeter's 1:35 scale M1117 Guardian is a fine kit of an interesting and important vehicle in current front line service.

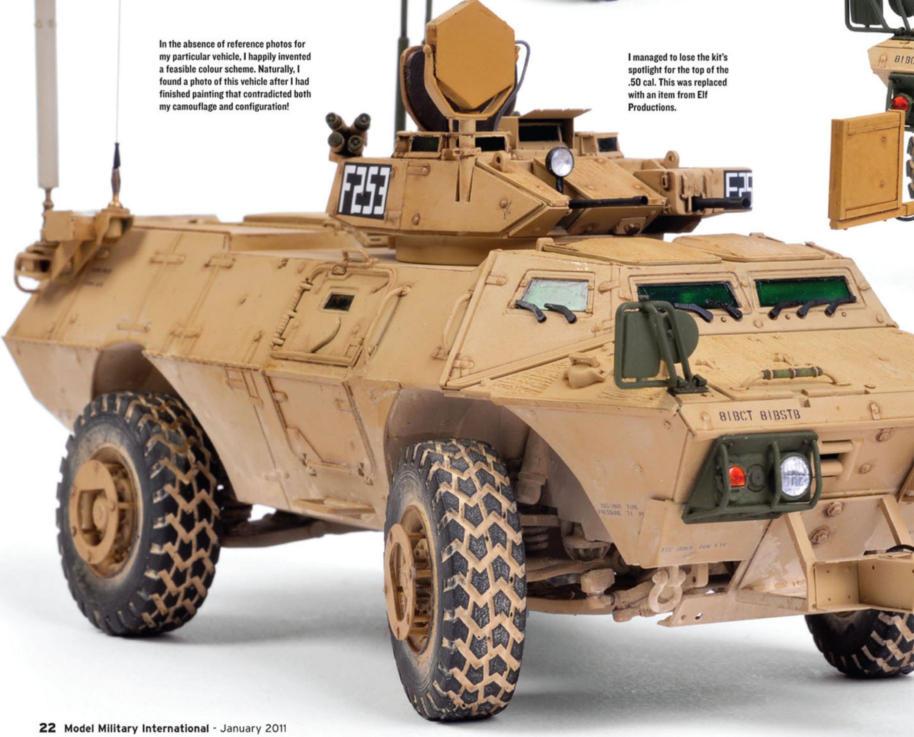
Cleanup of smaller parts took me a little longer than average, and you do need to pay attention to the instructions when assembling the suspension units, but there are no major problems during construction.

The availability of a number of high quality aftermarket accessories and decals broaden the kit's appeal even further.

Even if my paint job and configuration are not strictly correct for this particular vehicle, I still very much enjoyed building and updating Trumpeter's 1:35 scale M1117 Guardian. ■

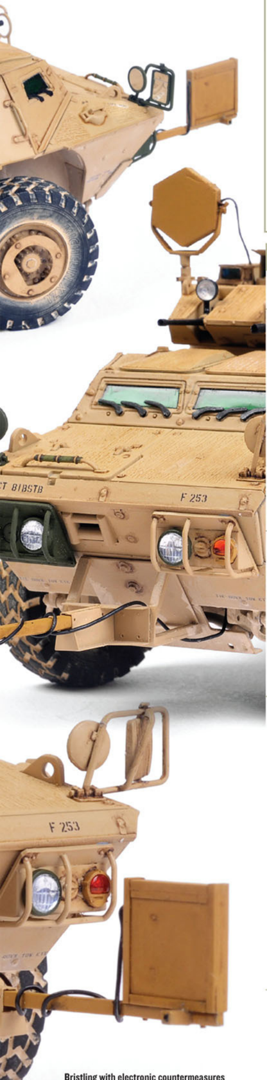


The 50/50 mix of Mig's Beach Sand and Light European Earth pigments was also applied to the bottom of the hull.



In the absence of reference photos for my particular vehicle, I happily invented a feasible colour scheme. Naturally, I found a photo of this vehicle after I had finished painting that contradicted both my camouflage and configuration!

I managed to lose the kit's spotlight for the top of the .50 cal. This was replaced with an item from Elf Productions.



Bristling with electronic countermeasures and wearing its patchwork paintwork, the M1117 can be an eye-catching subject.

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Sweeney, the command Sergeant Major for 81st Brigade Combat Team, Washington Army National Guard, speaks to soldiers from the 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 81st BCT, during training on 6 February, 2009 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq. About 2,400 Washington National Guardsmen and 900 California National Guardsmen were deployed with the 81st BCT based out of Seattle in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Note the distinctive style of white numbers on a black background used on the vehicles in this photo. These are similar to the numbers on the 81BCT's M1117 Guardians (Photo: U.S. Army).

Modelspec

Trumpeter M1117 Guardian Armoured Security Vehicle (ASV) **Kit No. 01541**

Accessories, Updates and Decals

- New World Miniatures M1117 / 1200 Wheels. Item No. NWM-AC001
- Blast Models M1117 Guardian Update for Trumpeter. Item No. BL35158K
- Voyager Model Modern US Army M1117 Guardian Upgrade. Item No. Pe35347
- Legend Productions Rhino Anti-IED Device for M1117. Item No. LF12A8
- Echelon Fine Details M1117 Guardian Paint Masks. Item No. D356107
- Echelon Fine Details M1117 Guardian ASV Peel and Stick Mirrors. Item No. M357142
- Echelon Fine Details M1117 ASV Guardians in Iraq. Item No. D356103

Tools and Materials Used

- Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement
- Revell Contacta Professional Cement
- Gator's Grip Acrylic Glue
- Kristal Klear
- Iwata HP-CH Airbrush
- Iwata HP-TR Airbrush
- Albion Alloys square profile brass tube and 0.2mm Nickel Silver rod
- Plastic sheet, rod and strip
- Solvaset

Paints and Weathering Products Used

Tamiya Spray Can: TS-46 Light Sand

Tamiya Acrylics: X-25 Clear Green; X-26 Clear Orange; X-27 Clear Red; XF-1 Flat Black; XF-2 Flat White; XF-55 Deck Tan; XF-59 Desert Yellow; XF-60 Dark Yellow; XF-64 Red Brown; XF-67 NATO Green.

Vallejo Acrylics: various colours

Gunze Acrylics: H20 Flat Clear

Mig Productions: Sin Industries' P402 Brown Filter for Desert Yellow

Winsor and Newton Oil Paints: 337 Lamp Black; 554 Raw Umber

Mig Pigments: P030 Beach Sand; P415 Light European Dust

✓ High quality plastic mouldings; interesting and current subject; excellent surface textures (especially non-slip surfaces); separate hatches; minimal moulding imperfections.

✗ Some flash on smaller parts demands careful preparation before assembly; no interior.

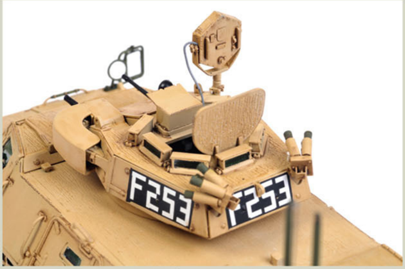
Available from

Thanks to J.B. Wholesalers for the kit sample www.jbwholesalers.com.au

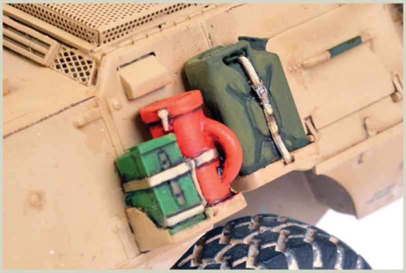
Thanks to New World Miniatures for the resin wheels www.newworldminiatures.com

Thanks to Voyager Model for the photo-etched detail set www.voyagermodel.com

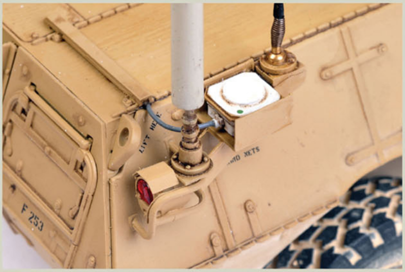
Rating ●●●●●●●●◐○



The hexagonal device on the turret is a hailer. Once again, an electrical lead has been added from fuse wire.



It would seem that most jerry cans on Guardians are brown in colour, but this just did not look right on my model despite trying several different shades. I eventually settled on green.

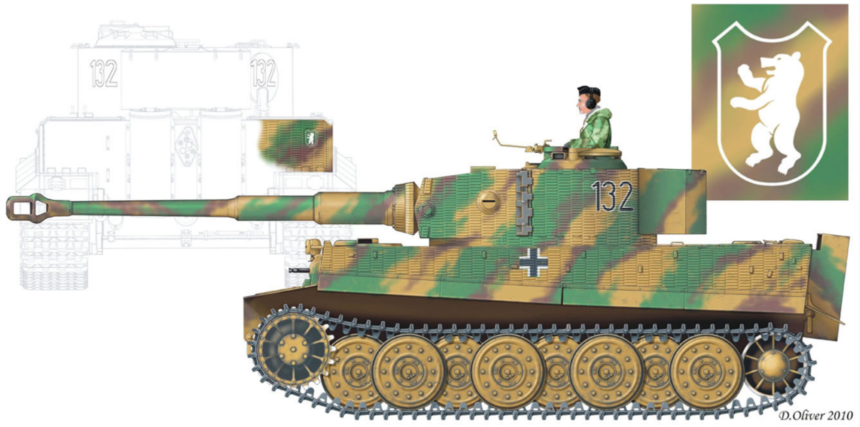


An electrical lead was added to the white box. This was cut from fuse wire and painted grey. A green spot was painted on the white box too.

TIGER I AUSF. E ARTWORK

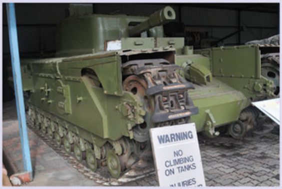
Dennis Oliver presents his artwork of a Tiger I Ausf. E from 1. Kompanie, schwere Panzer-Abteilung 510, Lithuania, Autumn 1944.

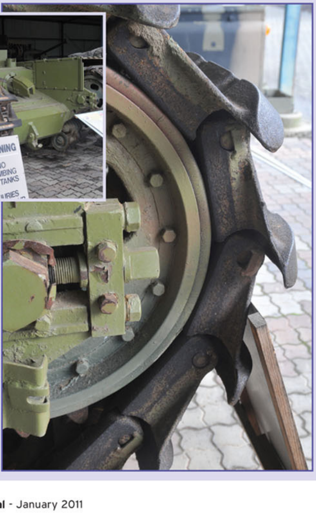
This artwork originally appeared in the book, "From To The Last Bullet, Germany's War On 3 Fronts. Part I - The East", from The Oliver Publishing Group. www.oliverpublishinggroup.com

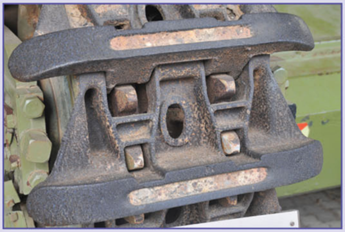


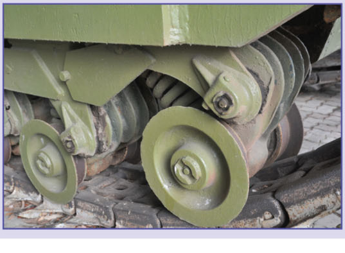
Pzkw VI Tiger ausf E. 1 Kompanie, schwere Panzer-Abteilung 510. Lithuania, autumn 1944. In common with the other Tigers of this battalion, this vehicle's number is displayed towards the rear of the turret at both sides. The unit insignia was painted on the hull rear at the right hand side. The official version of the latter was quite striking being halved diagonally and rendered in white over black. The more subdued variant shown here would seem to have been the most common.

RANDOM REFERENCE!









CHURCHILL TANK TRACKS

Here are some close-up and personal views of the cast tracks from a Chrurchill tank. Photos show the big tracks from the front, side and on the inside surfaces.

This Churchill tank is on display at the Tank Museum at Pukapunyal in rural Australia.

MODEL KITS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

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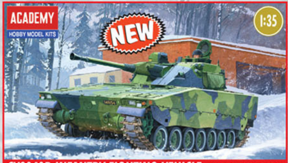
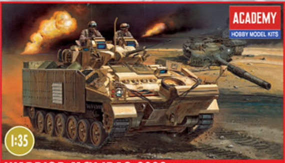
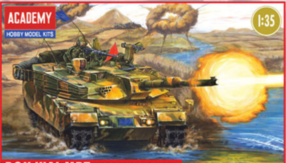
AVAILABLE IN ALL GOOD MODEL SHOPS


ACADEMY
HOBBY MODEL KITS
NEW
1:35

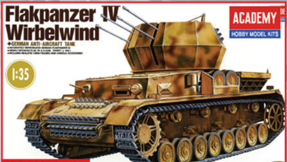
CV9040B INFANTRY FIGHTING VEHICLE AY13217 £29.99


ACADEMY
HOBBY MODEL KITS
1:35

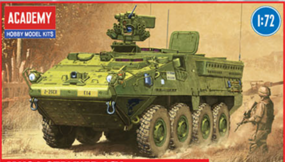
WARRIOR MCV IRAQ 2003 AI3201 £22.99


ACADEMY
HOBBY MODEL KITS
1:35

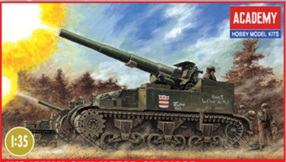
ROK KIAI MBT AY13215 £24.99


Flakpanzer IV
Wirbelwind
GERMAN ANTI-AIRCRAFT TANK
ACADEMY
HOBBY MODEL KITS
1:35

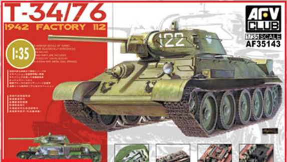
AY01333 £12.99


ACADEMY
HOBBY MODEL KITS
1:72

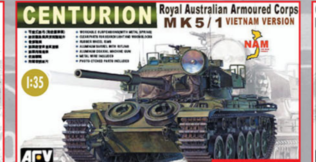
M1126 STRYKER ICV AY13411 £8.99


ACADEMY
HOBBY MODEL KITS
1:35

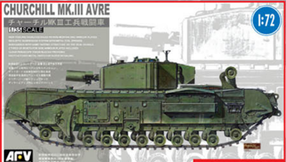
M12 155MM GUN MOTOR CARRIAGE AY01394 £19.99


T-34/76
1942 FACTORY 112
AFV CLUB
1/35 SCALE
AF35143
1:35

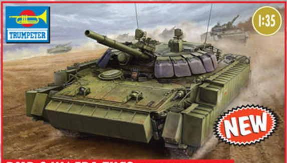
AF35143 £37.99


CENTURION
Royal Australian Armoured Corps
MK5/1
VIETNAM VERSION
NAM
1:35
AFV CLUB

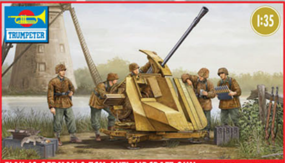
AF35100 £29.99


CHURCHILL MK.III AVRE
チャーチルMKIII工兵戦闘車
1/35 SCALE
1:72
AFV CLUB

AF35167 £37.99


TRUMPETER
1:35
NEW

BMP-3 W/ ERA TILES TM00365 £27.99


TRUMPETER
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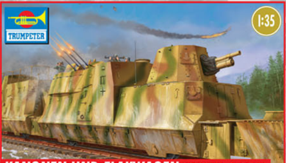
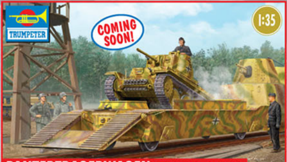
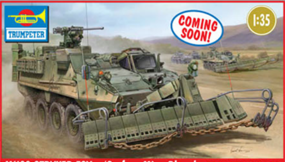
FLAK 43 GERMAN 3.7CM ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN TM02311 £12.99


TRUMPETER
1:35

KANONEN UND FLAKWAGEN TM01511 £65.99


TRUMPETER
COMING SOON!
1:35

PANZERTRAGERWAGEN TM01508 £65.99


TRUMPETER
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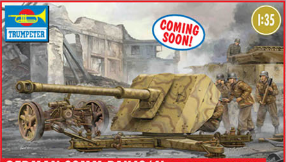
M1132 STRYKER ESV w/Surface Mine Plough TM01575 £26.99


TRUMPETER
COMING SOON!
1:35

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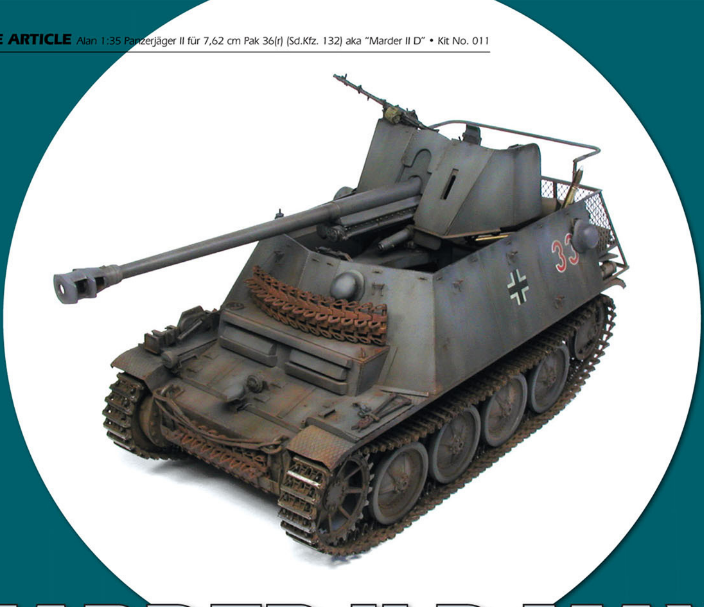


MARDER II D MAX!

PART ONE

Thomas Morgan tackles a massive upgrade to Alan's old 1:35 scale Marder II Ausf. D, with significant scratch building and K59's exquisite gun assembly.

As I ventured further into WW II armour modelling, I developed an interest in German self-propelled anti-tank guns. I was especially attracted to those with open fighting compartments and exposed guns, such as the Marder family.

Researching the various types I learned they often incorporated captured foreign chassis and guns. These hybrid and often urgently developed designs resulted in some odd looking beasts. And none was more bizarre than the Marder II Ausf. D - a real ugly duckling.

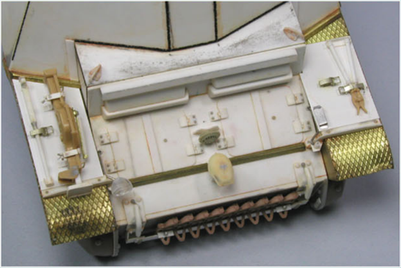
HISTORY

As the Germans pushed into Russia, they found their standard anti-tank weapons bested by the newer Soviet vehicles. Fortunately for the Wehrmacht they had captured hundreds of the excellent Russian 7.62cm Modell36 (F-22) gun. These were re-chambered to accept the German 7.5cm Pak 40 cartridge (L/54.8) while retaining the 7.62cm projectile, and designated 7.62cm Pak 36(r).

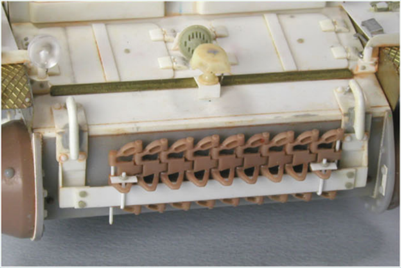
When in December 1941 a new self-propelled anti-tank weapon was ordered, the Pak 36(r) was fitted to the body of the Pz.Kpfw. II Aust. D – itself an aberration in the Panzer II family having a unique chassis and four large road wheels.

A total of 204 units were accepted between April 1942 and November 1943, so it was not rare.

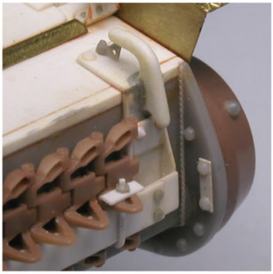
Over a dozen confusing names were given to this tank hunter, including Pz.Sfl. I, Sd.Kfz. 132 and

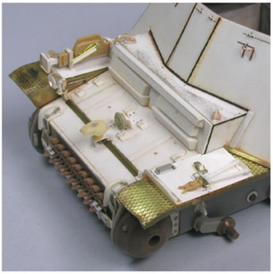


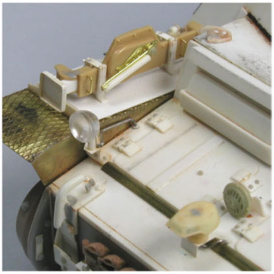
The forward upper hull – mostly scratch built styrene.



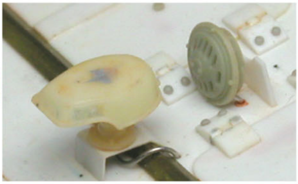
Spare track links were sourced from Modelkasten.


Detail of the forward port side of the hull.


The upper & lower visor blocks are lengths of .080" x .100" rod and .100" x .100" rod respectively. They were clamped in a vice and one side filed to the correct angle.


The jack is an up-detailed Tamiya item.

The single headlight was modelled from turned clear plexiglass rod.


The resin Notek light is MIG's and the horn is from Royal Model.

Marder II or II D.

The Marder had a crew of four, but apparently a fifth was sometimes added as a target spotter.

Although several Marder IIs were sent to North Africa, most served on the Eastern Front.

HULL

My project was based on the old 1:35 scale Alan Marder II Ausf. D kit.

I knew the kit wasn't perfect, but none of the plans in the reference books matched exactly anyway, so why should I obsess? I thought I'd be satisfied with adding the K59 turret, refining a few details and possibly making the wire mesh stern. I did not expect to embark on a scratch-building marathon.

Photos show prominent lengths of spare track bolted to the rack on the glacis plate and often wired to the front of the fighting compartment. So I began with the track bracket and tow hooks on the front. The rack was easily built with plastic strip and MasterClub resin nuts. However, I did have to turn my own conical nuts from .030" rod (now available from MasterClub).

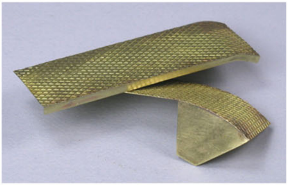
The tow hooks were started by tacking together two pieces of plastic and cutting them to the same profile. They were separated and filed to shape, then glued & puttied to the base plates. The small Bronco stoppers secure a Eureka tow cable.

I chose to use links from Model Kasten's Panzer II D wheel & track set, as they are finely detailed. Usually 10 links were secured to the glacis rack, with movable J-bolts. Interestingly, the bolts were almost always at links #2 and #10. I could fit only 9 of the Model Kasten links.

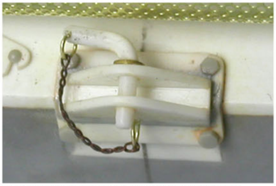
The front looked a little vertically "compressed" but I shrugged it off. Only later did I realize that the hull was 3.5mm too shallow. This would come back to haunt me again.

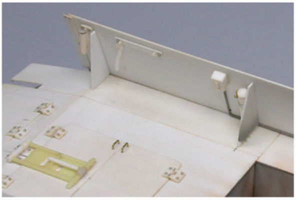
I wasn't happy with the misshapen hinges of the front hatches, so I decided to replace them. This led to redoing the hatches themselves. I don't know how it happened, but the next thing I knew I was scratch-building the entire front, sides, fenders, rear, etc.

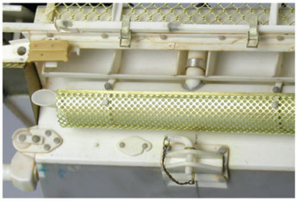
It was fairly straightforward to reproduce the slab construction with sheet styrene, mostly .020" or .030". ▶


The short front and rear fenders were made with Aber PE engrave plate PP08.

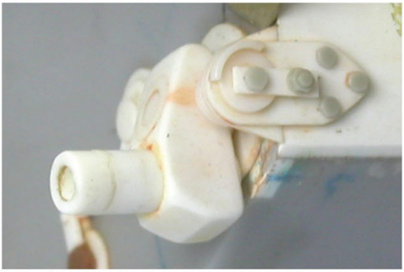
I wasn't happy with the misshapen hinges of the front hatches, so I decided to replace them.


The tiny chain on the tow pin is .006" copper wire twisted and flattened with pliers.

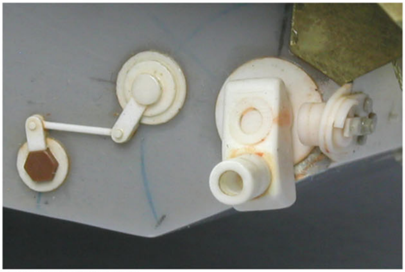

0.6mm rivets were used on the larger rear deck units.


The lower rear hull.

The kit's drive sprocket was woeful. Here is the heavily reworked kit part, including brown-coloured Modelkasten mounts and rivets.



Functioning idler mounts were made from scratch. These permit the tracks to be tensioned.



The idler mount and track tensioner.

The upper & lower visor blocks are lengths of .080" x .100" rod and .100" x .100" rod respectively. They were clamped in a vice and one side filed to the correct angle.

The bullet splash is brass angle iron. Filing down the apex forms a correct trapezoidal shape.

The lift hooks above the driver's station (rear deck too) are by Tiger Model Designs.

The Marder had two headlights, but in many photos they are missing. I modelled one from turned clear plexiglass rod. Before spraying the Dunkelgrau the slit was masked with Bare Metal Foil, and the bucket coated with Humbrol Metallic Silver, in hopes of achieving a reflective appearance. It was partially successful.

The resin Notek light is MIG's and the horn is from Royal Model. All the wiring is thin solder - .010" or .015".

Replacing those treacherous hinges proved to be very aggravating. They were contoured armoured affairs that had to fit the .010" step from the deck to the hatch. And they each had two bolts. And they all had to be identical.

I tried several techniques, but finally settled on a jig system. Sections of .020" x .060" rod and .030" x .060" rod would each form half of a hinge, with 3 tiny pieces of .030" semi-circular rod glued to the opposing faces – 2 on one side, 1 on the other. Three inch lengths of rod were pushed against a jig fence and sanded to shape. The lengths were fed into another jig and cut to uniform widths. A third jig sliced the short half-round pivot pieces.

I used 0.5mm rivets on the front hinges, and 0.6mm rivets on the larger rear deck units. I think they look pretty good.

The short front and rear fenders were made with Aber PE engrave plate PP08. Broad side panels of .005" brass were shaped to fit the curve of the fenders and soldered to the inner edges. Pre-tinning both pieces really helped. I fumbled trying to bend and attach the thin outer edges. Finally I just repeated the process for the inner panels – attaching a broad piece and then grinding it down to a thin edge. The long edge of false fender under the superstructure is a strip of .005" styrene.

The back of the hull with all its complex detail was completely scratched from plastic sheet, rod and tube, plus resin nuts. The most difficult part was the semi-cylindrical air intake and its baffles.

The exhaust shield is Aber photo-etched drilled plate S17. The tiny chain on the tow pin is not chain at all. It is .006" copper wire twisted and flattened with pliers.

I had trouble getting the intake, exhaust and tow bracket to all fit, and it was here that I realized the hull was too shallow. C'est la guerre.

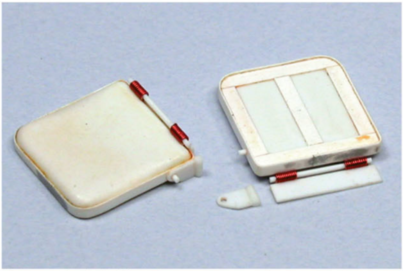
The convoy light is by Tasca. The lenses were backed with small pieces of Tauro Model tempered steel decal. One lens was topped with Tamiya Clear Red and the other with Tamiya Clear Orange. A taillight should sit opposite the convoy light just medial to the rear right fender. This is usually absent in photos, so I made an empty mounting.

RUNNING GEAR

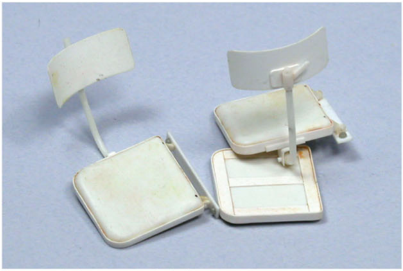
The kit's sprocket wheels were abysmal, and the idlers almost as bad. The halves were misaligned by 15°, and none of the 8 ribs fit. I searched for after-market replacements but was forced to tediously rework the ribs, fill sinkholes and add hub nuts. The brown plastic mounts for the sprocket wheels are from the Model Kasten set.

As I already had them, I used the wheels from the Modelkasten set, although Alan's parts were fine. Believe it or not, the kit crank arms face in the wrong direction! Luckily they are hidden behind the large wheels.

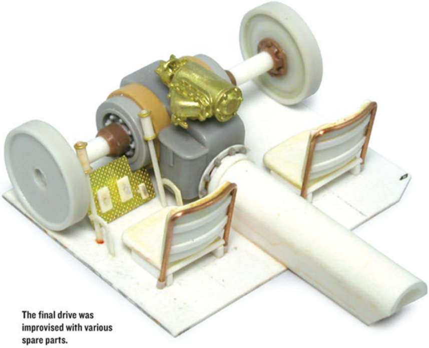
> **"I thought I'd be satisfied with adding the K59 turret, refining a few details and possibly making the wire mesh stern. I did not expect to embark on a scratch-building marathon…"**



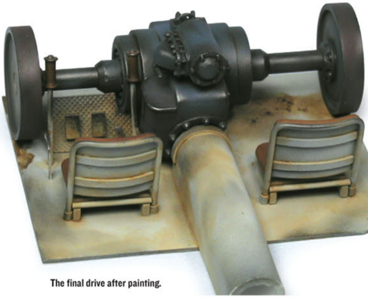
The front seats, featuring detail front and rear.



The rear seats also feature some attractive detail.



The final drive was improvised with various spare parts.



The final drive after painting.

I decided to make functioning offset idler mounts so I could later adjust the track tension. I drilled parallel holes into a heavy styrene block and glued in thick tubing, for the axle and pivot. The track tensioner was copied from drawings, with plastic scrap and resin bolts.

I really like the look and weight of Fruilmodel metal tracks. They are no more tedious to assemble than other single link sets, and are stronger and easier to adjust. Instead of the soft wire provided, I make my pins from .015" brass wire. It is stiff, and once the pins are secured with thick CA, they can be sanded off to uniform and square ends.

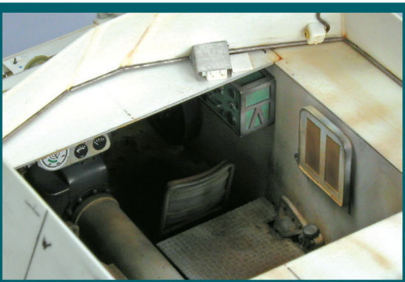
The tracks were primed Matt Black, then sprayed NATO Brown. Incidentally, all paints are Tamiya acrylics unless noted otherwise. The cleats were sanded to bare metal, and the horns burnished bare with a brass wire buffing wheel. A slurry of MIG pigments in Tamiya Thinner (Dark Mud and Russian Earth) was applied. The dry mud was rubbed from the bare metal areas that were then buffed with 9B graphite, to tone down the shine.

INTERIOR

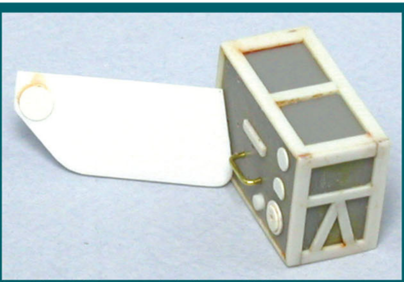
Originally I had not planned to detail the empty driver's & radio operator's compartment. I expected it to be hidden by the shell cabinet, the gun mount and the turret. I thought the most I might have to add would be the backs of the seats. Wrong! I had not appreciated how far back the gun really was. There was a clear view into both sides of the forward compartment, all the way to the glacis plate. Not only did I need to fabricate some reasonable detail, but I had to add it through the limited opening at the rear of the space, as the entire front of the vehicle was already sealed.

A simple schematic in "Nuts & Bolts vol.24" shows the positions of the seats, transmission and final drive, but it lacks detail. Based on similar components in other vehicles, I fabricated some generic parts.

The seat frames are annealed .025" bronze wire, with heat-curved styrene backs and carved ▶



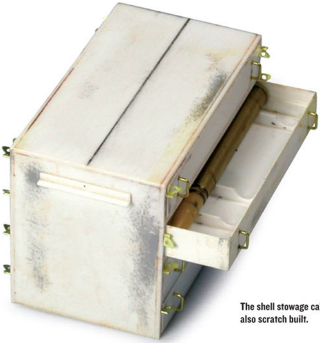
Most of the interior detail may be seen as the gun is mounted quite far back on the chassis.



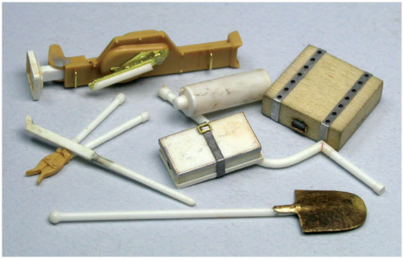
The basic shapes for the instrument panel and radio were scratch built.

Vast expanses of sheet styrene delivered most of the upper hull.

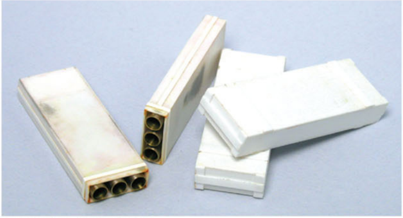
The completed instrument panel. The dials are Archer Fine Transfers' German Instrument Faces.



The shell stowage cabinet, also scratch built.



The tools prior to painting.



Ammunition boxes, complete with shells.

cushions. The levers are plastic rods with brass washers. The driver's footplate is a piece of Aber engrave plate PP14.

The transmission & final drive was cobbled together from spare wheels and hubs, with a brass "thingie" I found at a model train shop. I sprayed it Medium Blue over a NATO Black base. It was pin-washed with burnt umber oil and buffed with graphite. The whole assembly slide snugly into place. Even though the unit was a product of my imagination, I was pleased with the result.

The instrument panel was based on an illustration of the original and used Archer German instrument faces, and chemically blackened brass wire switches.

A cover for the drive shaft was formed by heat-bending a sheet of styrene around a wooden dowel, in boiling water. The anti-skid flooring on either side of the shaft is styrene sheet covered with Archer tread plate – very nice to work with. The hull walls were re-skinned with .010" sheet. Parts from the spares box mimic shock absorbers.

After pre-shading the compartment with NATO Black, an interior cream shade of White with Buff was applied. This was followed with a Burnt Sienna oil wash, and various MIG pigments.

I tried my hand at scratch-building a radio - the Fu.Spr. Ger.d pictured in "Nuts & Bolts Vol.24". It was pre-shaded with NATO Black, then coloured a light green. After masking, the frame was sprayed Sky Grey. Details are chemically blackened brass wire, an Archer information placard, and scrap decals. Following a coat of Humbrol Matt Cote, it was lightly buffed with graphite.

It was only while taking the model's final photographs that I realized I had inverted the frame and forgotten the radio's mounting bracket.

SUPERSTRUCTURE

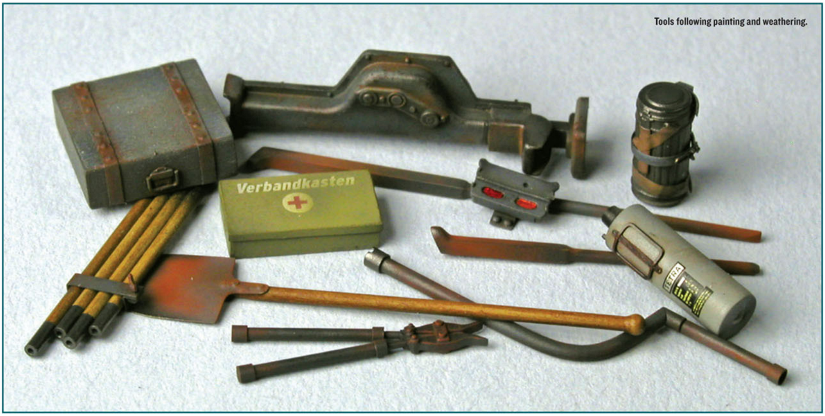
The Alan kit builds into a late Marder with a solid rear superstructure, but I wanted the earlier version with wire mesh. K59 recommended adding a further 1.5mm to the top of the superstructure, and as I was already unhappy with the thickness of the kit parts, I decided to replace the whole thing.

The front panel is .020" sheet, scored and bent. The sides are 0.15" sheet with 4 bracing plates of the same thickness. The great looking weld beads are Archer's.

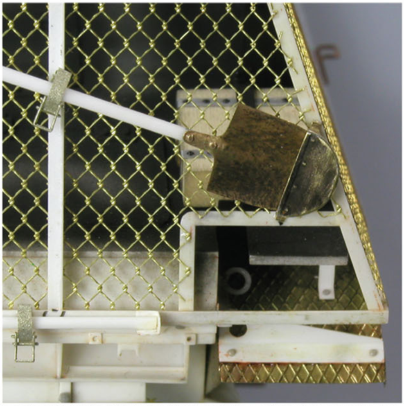
As the deck was already badly cut up, I took the opportunity to replace it with .015" slabs.

The hatches are .010" thick with larger four-bolt hinges, and .012" wire handles. The rear travel lock is the K59 piece augmented with a new hinge.

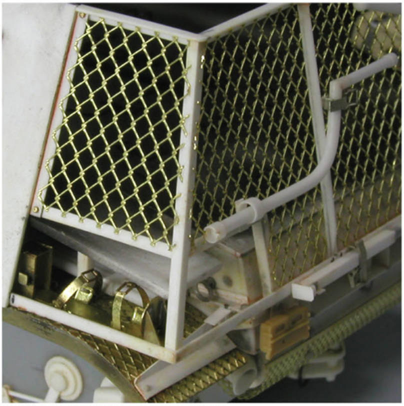
Only one photograph exists showing any detail of the shell cabinet under the gun platform. The view is incomplete but some handles and latches are distinct. At least 3 drawers are evident



Tools following painting and weathering.



I used templates of .005" plastic to cut the PE mesh panels. They were tediously secured with tiny drops of thin CA applied with a .005" spatulated wire.



All that tedious work on the diamond mesh was worthwhile.

although it has been illustrated with up to 5. And it has been assumed (?) that they were bilateral. I chose to model only 4 drawers on each side, to allow the cabinet to clear the underlying drive shaft. A frame of heavy styrene was faced with .015" sheet. The drawer fronts are merely rectangles of .005" sheet. Aligning the 16 handles (.012" brass wire) was tasking. The stoppers are Aber PE. I coloured the locker Dark Sea Grey, post-shaded with German Grey and buffed with a little graphite.

One authority has illustrated a three round horizontal shell box on each side of the forward fighting compartment, as on the Marder III. However only two photos reveal glimpses of this area – one hints at a rack, the other doesn't. On the other hand, the Marder reportedly carried 30 rounds. Allowing 6 rounds in side racks, and assuming 3 in each of the 8 drawers in the cabinet, 30 rounds would be feasible. In the absence of definitive information, I made the possibly flawed decision to include the racks. Osprey's Sam Dwyer also chose them, so at least I am in good company.

I made mine with short lengths of steel tube cut from an old radio antenna (only the ends show). Styrene strips glued to the tubes' sides maintained uniform spacing around them. The boxes were built from .010" sheet. Eduard supplied the PE bases for the shells.

A single photo (the one with the shell cabinet) reveals a seat behind and above the radio operator's position. This "jump seat" folds up against the hull wall. In fact, a few photographs show both the radioman and driver postured such that they must be standing on something in just that spot. One reference author has included the seats in his plans. I depicted the seats as sprung vertically, held down by a hinged clamp.

The rear seats for the commander and loader are better documented. They hinge downward and have adjustable backs.

I carved the four cushions from .040" styrene and added frames with .005" and .010" strips. The seat backs are heat formed .005" sheet. The leather is Red Brown, shadowed with Flat Brown and highlighted with Flat Earth – all by airbrush.

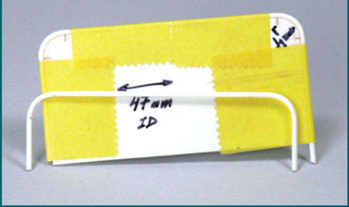
The two breathing tube canisters (Atemschlauch) on the sidewalls are .080" styrene rod, with Verlinden clamps and .003" aluminium brackets. The intercom speaker on the front of the gun platform is by Tiger Model Designs. The intercom plug boxes next to the Atemschlauch, as well as the switch unit (under the aluminium cover) near the speaker, were built from square stock and scraps, all with wire conduits of .015" lead.

For visual interest I added a first aid box (Verbandkasten) to the front of the superstructure. The standard size of these boxes (measured for me by an owner) was 34cm x 18cm x 10cm. I built it and the frame from styrene. The edge of the lid is .003" aluminium, and the strap is soft foil with a Royal Model PE buckle. I coloured mine Dark Yellow, although they apparently came in grey and green as well. The transfer is Archer's.

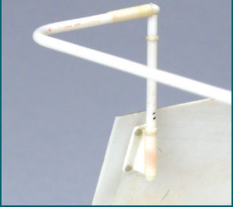
One of the "make or break" features of this model is the wire mesh back of the fighting compartment. Eduard once offered a PE set, but it was basic and inaccurate. Photos reveal the wire side panels to be asymmetrical, as are the short posts under the corners of the rear deck.

Brass angle iron for the frame would have been too heavy, and nothing in preformed plastic was available in scale. I fabricated my own by gluing a .010" x .030" styrene strip to a .010" x .040" strip. This produced a .040" x .040" angle iron. I made several 6" lengths, keeping the assemblies straight by sandwiching the strips

▶

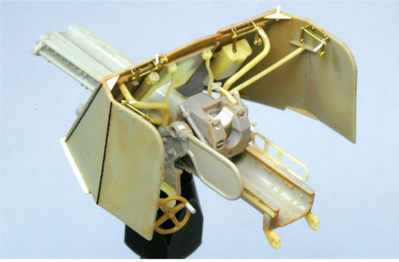


The tarp's articulated frame is interesting. It could be positioned up, or bent backwards as I portrayed it, or even lifted out of the wall mounts and stowed on the deck.

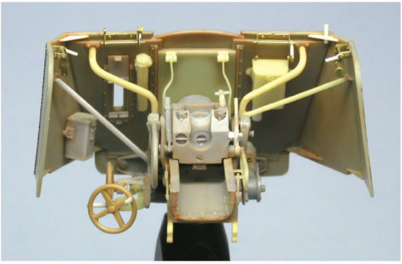


The frame for the tarp in place.

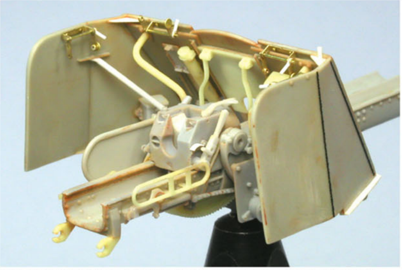
Tie down and step on the superstructure.



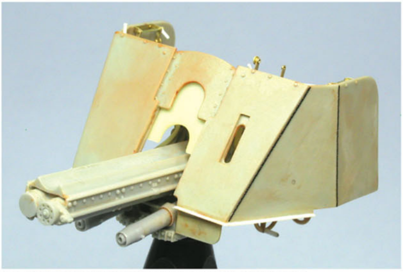
The turret, featuring the gun shield and rail.



I chose the option of K59's resin upgrade kit.



K59's upgrade includes the gun platform, turret and complete Pak 36(r) with an aluminium barrel.



I broke the thin lip along the front of the shield and repaired it with strip styrene.

between two metal rulers while the glue set. The horizontal rails were carefully measured and built off the model, while the vertical sections were cut and added once the former were in place.

Sourcing the wire netting was difficult. Appropriate diamond shaped PE mesh was obtained from every internet producer I could find. The best option was Aber's interlace net S22, although the holes are a little too large. I used templates of .005" plastic to cut the PE mesh panels. They were tediously secured with tiny drops of thin CA applied with a .005" spatulated wire.

The tarp's articulated frame is interesting. It could be positioned up, or bent backwards as I portrayed it, or even lifted out of the wall mounts and stowed on the deck. This is .040" styrene rod heat bent in boiling water over a form. The slide locks and tubular mounts are lengths of "sprue-stretched" tubing.

The hand/foot steps are .015" brass wire, and the tarp tie-downs are .006", all secured with epoxy.

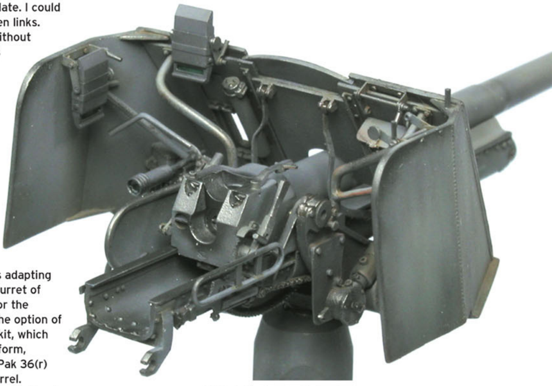
Not all II Ds had spare track on the front of the fighting compartment. But those that did usually had 16 links (sometimes more) wired to the handholds. These could sit vertically on top of the driver's compartment (as I portrayed them) or lay flush against the armour plate. I could fit only 14 Modelkasten links. Attaching the links without kinking the wires was frustrating.

These links (and those on the glacis plate) were painted NATO Brown, then coated with MIG rust pigments, and dusted.

GUN & TURRET

In Osprey's "Modelling the Marder Self-Propelled Gun" Sam Dwyer describes adapting the Pak 36(r) gun & turret of Tamiya's Marder III for the Marder II D. I chose the option of K59's resin upgrade kit, which includes the gun platform, turret and complete Pak 36(r) with an aluminium barrel.

The K59 set was my first resin "kit" and I was not disappointed. The detail was for the most part excellent. I encountered no bubbles nor flash, but the carriage slide was very slightly warped. I easily straightened it in boiling water.

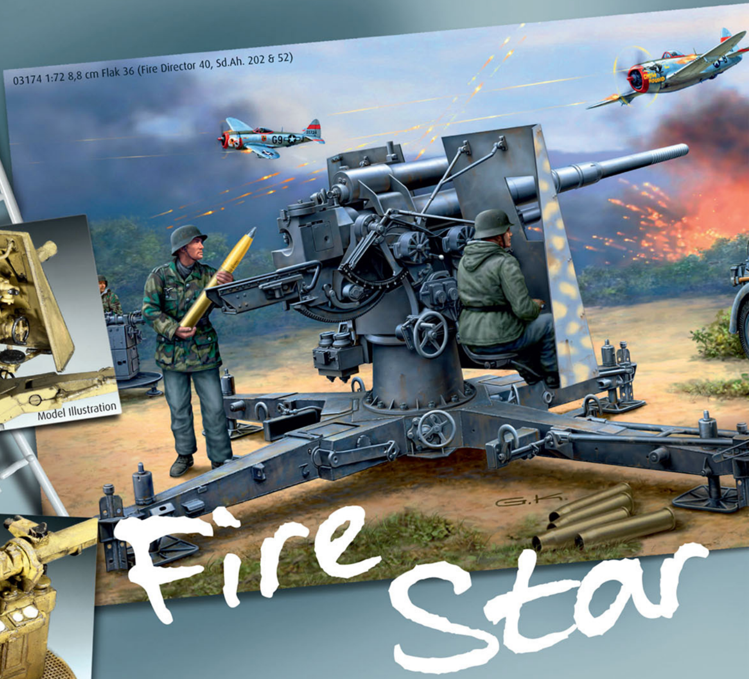


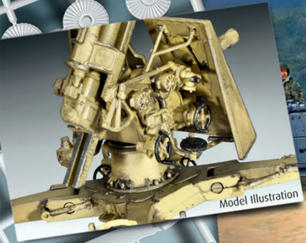
Painting of the gun assembly is underway.

The parts fit well, although care must be taken with the finer pieces. I broke the thin lip along the front of the shield and repaired it with strip styrene. The gears under the carriage were a little tricky to align, but are hard to see anyway. I replaced one of the shield supports with styrene rod, and substituted hand wheels from Tamiya's Marder III (the gun sprue is available from Rainbow 10).

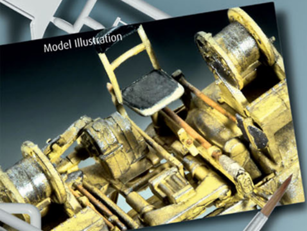
I also replaced the weld seams with Archer's weld beads. ■

Stay tuned for the next instalment when Thomas finishes detailing this remarkable model, and adds paint and weathering.


03174 1:72 8,8 cm Flak 36 (Fire Director 40, Sd.Ah. 202 & 52)
G9
G.K.
Fire Star



Model Illustration



1:72 8,8 cm Flak 36 (Fire Director 40, Sd.Ah. 202 & 52) 03174

The 8.8cm Flak was a World War II German anti-aircraft gun that also had a formidable reputation as an anti-tank weapon. Three versions were developed - the Flak 18, 36 and 37 - all of which saw service on every wartime front. Typically there were up to 11,000 guns operational at any one time and these formed the backbone of the air defences against Allied bombing raids.

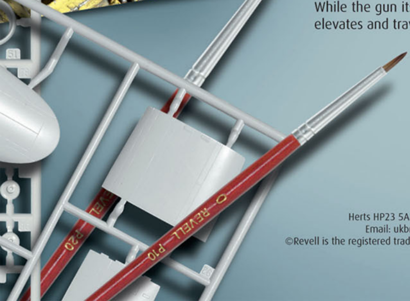
The 8.8cm Flak had a maximum vertical ceiling of 10.6 km, a range of 14.8km and could fire between 15 and 20 rounds per minute.

This detailed model kit can be built in either firing or travelling positions and includes the Sd. Ah.202 trailer and the Fire Director 40 fire control unit. While the gun itself has folding outriggers and elevates and traverses through 360°.

Model-details:

- Finely detailed surface structures
- Special Sd. Ah.202 trailer
- Fire Director 40 and trailer
- Elevating/traversing gun
- Firing or travelling build positions
- Optional protective shields and gun barrels
- Detailed outrigger and stabilisers
- Authentic decals for 4 versions

For more details on this brand new 1:72 scale model kit as well as the complete range of Revell products check out our International website at **www.revell.eu**



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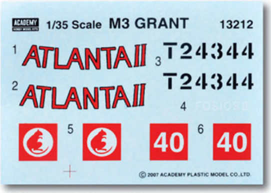


Markings are supplied for two vehicles.

EL ALAMEIN GRANT

Al Bowie reviews the limited edition Academy 1:35 scale M3 Grant, which now includes crew figures from MiniArt.

This is a limited edition re release of the original M3 Grant Kit No 13212 that offers the Miniart British Tank Crew Set – 35078 - as a bonus.

Some years ago, Academy released a pair of 1:35 scale M3 Mediums in the guise of an M3 Lee and an M3 Grant both being riveted hull variants. These offered a very complete interior for the hull and turret however they were not well received and got a lot of poor reviews at the time. Unfortunately for Academy, these reviews identified supposedly serious errors in hull shape, turret dimensions, bogie height and rivet placement.

Of these, it was eventually found that the only serious errors were the bogie height and the position of the turret gun barrel in the rotor face. The supposed shape and dimension errors have been proven wrong and although some reviewers corrected their findings, the damage had already been done. Academy didn't help themselves by releasing the Grant with uncorrected bogies after their M7 Priest, which had corrected bogies. Fortunately, this issue now provides corrected bogies. The only serious fault still remaining is the position of the turret gun on the rotor face. It should be central to the trunions and not below them. This may be corrected by carefully cutting the mount off the rotor and repositioning it. Alternatively, if you have an old Tamiya Grant, use the mantlet from that kit instead.

Academy's new release is now in a light grey styrene and has the corrected bogie faces on Sprue E whilst still retaining the option of M4 Bogies on Sprue A. These aso offer the choice of two skid types – horizontal or upswept. The kit gives you the option of pressed or spoked road wheels and idler; and two styles of drive sprocket (plain or lace).

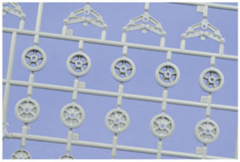
The kit has a great interior that may be seen through the hull side hatches. The hatches can be positioned open with detailed inner faces. The turret is spot on in height and width for a Grant (having measured two at the RAAC Museum), and the contours are correct per those two examples. If I had a criticism here, it would be the contour edges appear sharp and would benefit from a rounding off with a sanding stick with a bit of texture added.

Markings are provided for two British 8th Army examples although no formations or units are identified. The first is "Atlanta II" of an unknown formation but I believe this to be Warwickshire Yeomanry. The second is a camouflaged example with no T Markings and only a 7 AD 22 Armoured Brigade Formation marking and a 40 AoS being 2nd Gloucestershire Hussars.

The figures provided are the excellent Miniart British Tank Crew, however it should be pointed out that these are depicted in the Denim Tank Coveralls and RAC helmets which are generally not associated with the North African campaign. They are more suited to North West Europe but are well detailed and animated providing an interesting addition for Allied modellers.

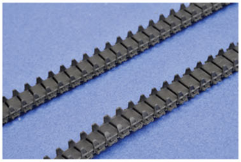
In summary, this is a very good kit and the best available of the Grant. It offers a number of useful options that allow the builder to model the Grant in service other than the Western Desert. The interior is nicely done and the price of this kit is well below that of a resin aftermarket interior.

Recommended without reservation. ■

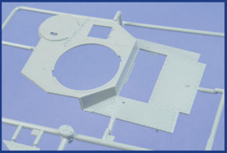


Both spoke and pressed road wheels and idlers are supplied.

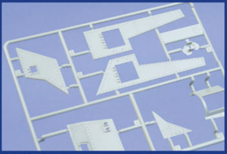
MiniArt's figures are included in this release, but they are more appropriate for North Western Europe than El Alamein.



Tracks are one-piece flexible vinyl.

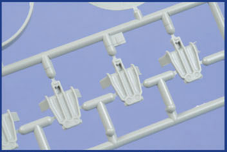


The upper hull is moulded as a single part with a separate top engine hatch.

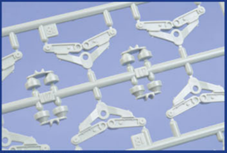


Hull sides feature the prominent raised rivets seen on the real tank.

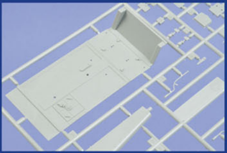
The cast turret is quite accurate in shape.



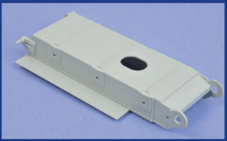
The bogie faces have been corrected in this release.



Suspension detail is well done.



The kit features a good level of interior detail, some of which is moulded onto the false floor of the hull.



The lower hull is moulded in one piece, which will speed assembly in this area.

Thanks to Academy for the review sample.

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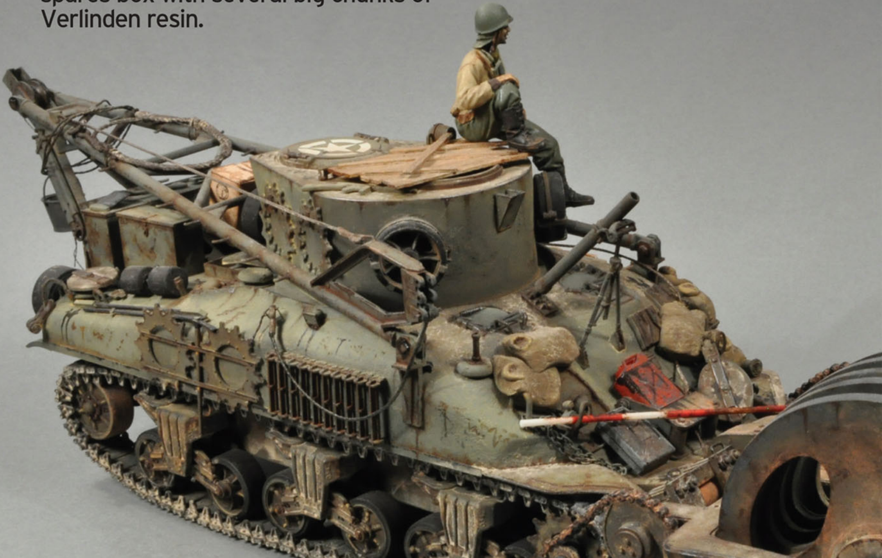
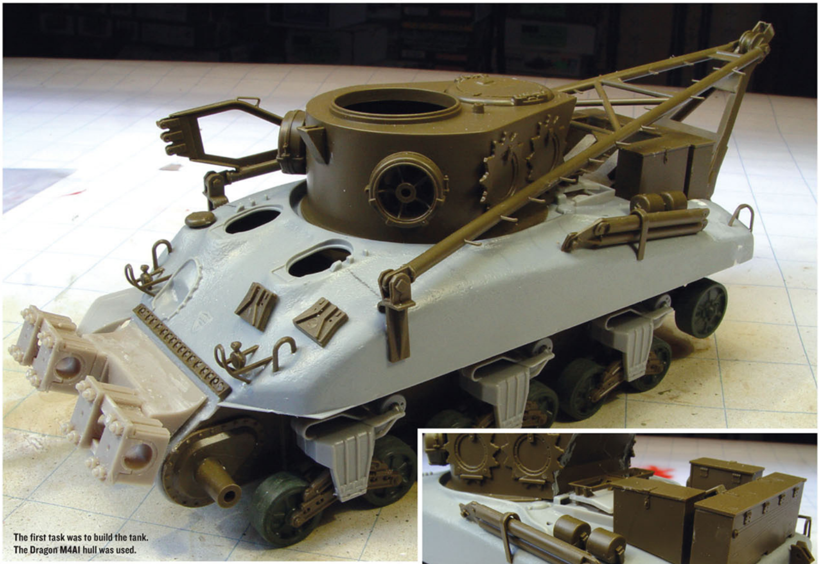
AUNT JEMIMA

Fabien Descamps tackles an ambitious conversion, combining parts from the spares box with several big chunks of Verlinden resin.

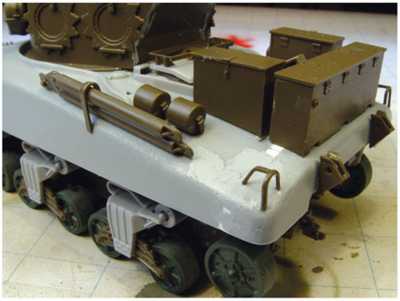


M32 Recovery Vehicle
No 6203
1:35
ITALERI
VERLINDEN PRODUCTIONS
T1E3 MINEROLLER
(Sherman Conversion)
827
1:35
MADE IN BELGIUM

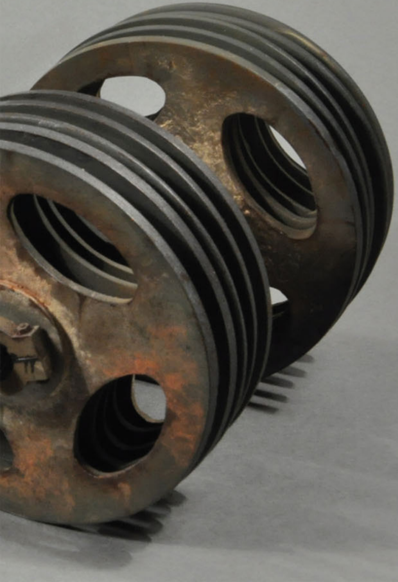
The conversion was destined to be based on Italeri's elderly but still welcome M32 recovery vehicle. Verlinden's I:35 scale TIE3 Mine Roller conversion is getting a bit old now too.



The first task was to build the tank. The Dragon M4A1 hull was used.



Boxes and fittings came from the venerable Italeri M32.



One of the many hazards faced by both men and machines in the Second World War was the landmine. Various means were designed to counter it, and while none was more effective than clearing an area by sheer manpower, there were some mechanical devices designed to be fitted to tanks.

The US developed a mine exploder device fitted to Sherman was known as the Aunt Jemima. The Aunt Jemima (T1E3 exploder) was named after a popular pancake mix logo, because somebody thought the big exploder wheels resembled gigantic pancakes.

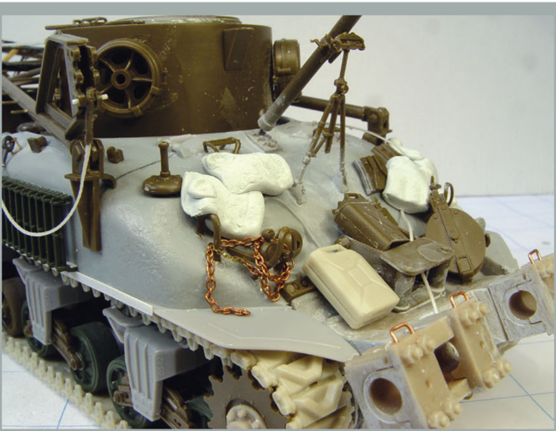
The 'Jemima' consisted of nothing more than two massive steels rollers pushed in front of a tank, with one roller ahead of each tank track. Each roller was divided into five discs. Each disc was about 4" thick and 11' in diameter. The Sherman, itself, was about 9' high and the whole setup weighed in at around 59,000 lbs. The roller chains from the Sherman sprockets drove the loosely mounted discs. The spacers were arranged and grooved to allow the discs to move. The T1E3 worked well in tests, but when used in service, the device proved difficult to manoeuvre. One account says that it took the length of 2-3 football pitches for it to do a U-turn !! The 'Aunt Jemima' detonated mines by its heavy weight, but this caused severe mobility problems when it sank into soft terrain, and other Sherman tanks were often called in to push it. The few US Units that used this device highly disliked the mobility problems and quickly lost interest in the vehicle. The British 'Crab', which flailed chains in front of a Sherman, was a much better option.

WHY THIS PROJECT?

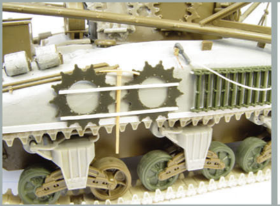
Over the past year, I have mainly built Sherman tanks in various versions. The reason for this is that I had a complete box of Sherman spare parts, enough to complete several models, but each time, there were some vital parts missing. As I did not want to buy new kits that would end up ▶

The running gear is a mix of Dragon, Italeri and Tamiya wheels and bogies.

The turret is all Italeri. Nobody else has released a 1:35 scale M32 since!



Detail is added to the front of the hull.



Being a support vehicle, it is reasonable to assume that the T1E3 would have been laden with spare parts and supplies.

The old Italeri jib on the back of the vehicle is treated to some extra detailing.

Sandbags were made from Milliput White two-part epoxy putty.

canibalized, I resorted to collecting parts via the internet community. Very quickly, I started to receive parcels containing all that was needed to complete my project.

The funny thing about this is I ended up with more parts than I needed, my stock being even bigger than ever. I started with one Sherman, then two, and I was hooked. This was how my collection started.

Assembling and painting Sherman tanks seems very easy, as they do not sport any disruptive camouflage at all. I therefore decided to add difficulties to my projects. Each model would be of a different version, with different tones of colour, and different accessories. Today, I have approximately 20 Sherman, all different from each another.

However, the biggest challenge for me is the Olive Drab colour. Olive Drab is rather boring, so working this colour until you get the desired shade is very important. For this, I closely studied the techniques used by the best modellers around, those who really push modelling ahead. Modelling and painting the Sherman is attractive. The diversity of choices is often unknown, sometimes ignored.

The Sherman T1E3 Aunt Jemima was a kind of a dream project. I always wanted to build one. Its rather strange appearance always looked attractive to me. It is now part of my collection among the Flail, the dozer tank, the kangaroo, and the usual 75mm and 76mm models.

GATHERING REFERENCES

When the time comes to build a new model, the first thing to do is to research information and technical data. As indicated in previous articles, I spend quite a long time researching in books, magazines, and of course browsing the internet in order to find the best references possible. I probably spend more doing this than painting! As my research started to prove unsuccessful, I came across several pictures of the M32 Sherman with the T1E1 Earthworm attached. It showed the Sherman fitted with a system of three assemblies of six disks, all maintained by heavy gauge steel cables. Still, looking for ideas, I started thinking that the Sherman M32 could have been fitted with the T1E3 system. That was the start of my project.

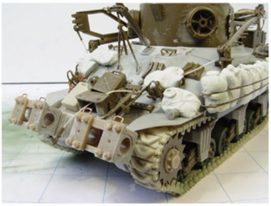
Many conversions were made in the field, and even in 2010, there is still hot debate about what existed or not! Browsing the internet, and more precisely the modelling forums, led me to the conclusion that this conversion was possible, it probably happened, but there was no photographic evidence available to confirm it. During my research, I was able to find a few pages of the M32 technical manual, which were downloaded into my computer.

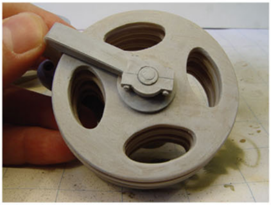
ASSEMBLING THE MODEL

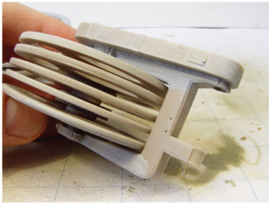
The next task to complete was to gather all the necessary elements to build this version. I started looking for the best possible model and the Verlinden conversion. According to my research, the Verlinden set is no longer available on the French market, so I checked on foreign websites and I was able to order it through Internet Hobbies in the States. I also used the M4a1 early Sherman from Dragon, and the remaining parts of the Italeri M4a1 Sherman.

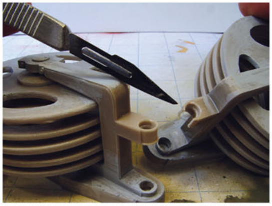
Compared to the more recent releases, the Italeri kit is showing its age. The level of detail is quite different to the latest kits, but it remains a good base that only needs extra details. The Dragon M4A1 is the most suitable hull for this work, just because the Big Hatch also known as (Late Sherman) was never used on the M32...this was a proven fact until three pictures were released in July 2008. We simply do not know everything about the Sherman tank. Many things have yet to be discovered!

Most of the kit assembly deals with the hull. The top and bottom really fit well together. Most of the kit was assembled out of the box. Only minor details changed its final appearance. The running gear is a mix of Dragon, Italeri and Tamiya wheels and bogies. Tracks were


The big resin mounts for the rollers were glued to the front of the M32.


The rollers are massive resin castings.


The rollers simply comprise of five 11' diameter disks on each side of the tank.


Some surgery was needed to repair the broken mount point on one of the rollers.

One of the rollers is being test-fitted to the tank here. It was later removed to allow separate painting.

The base camouflage colour applied to one of the rollers.

found in the excellent Resicast range of accessories.

The Verlinden conversion set is quite old, but the quality of moulding is still acceptable. As the real parts were made of plain steel, they didn't need finesse.

Resin parts should always be well cleaned before assembly. Some of the parts were full of resin flash and heavy sprues resulting from the casting process. Some of the mould attachments were quite imposing, and I must admit that it might discourage the younger modellers. I had to use quite a lot of Tamiya putty in order to fill the gaps and the bubbles that were found here and there.

One should be particularly careful when cleaning the chain transmission system. The links aren't very well defined, but I can imagine how difficult it must be to cast these parts. A few copper rods are provided to make the handles. When studying the reference pictures, I spotted that the oval holes were perfectly aligned, so I carefully glued each disk making sure this feature was matched. The remaining parts of the system could then be assembled before being fitted on the Sherman.

The sand bags were added at the very end of the assembly stages. They were made from White Milliput. I mixed the two components together and rolled the resulting paste into bits of 1cm approximately. They were applied on the model while still fresh in order to match the shape of the hull.

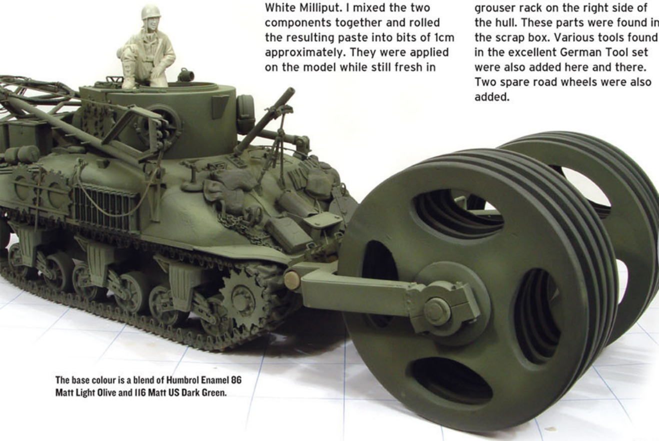
The steel storage rack was made from copper rods.

A few accessories were added on the front of the tank such as jerry cans etc... I also added a steel cable made from twisted copper wires. For this I use my motor drill at low speed. I fixed the wires in the machine, while holding the other end, and using the slow motion of the motor drill, the cable was made. I used the same method for the cable which is located at the end of the rear boom. The cables on the side and the one connecting the side-lifting pole are made of nylon. Also, note the grouser rack on the right side of the hull. These parts were found in the scrap box. Various tools found in the excellent German Tool set were also added here and there. Two spare road wheels were also added.

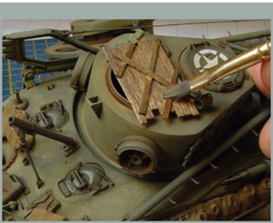
PAINTING THE BEAST

The Sherman and the front rollers were separated before painting. All the components received a coat of grey car primer. The rollers to paint owing to their particular shapes would prove a little bit difficult, so I first hand painted them with a large flat brush and dark green paint. I was then able to reach the inside of the disks. I could then load my Iwata airbrush with some olive green paint. The base coat has in my opinion only little importance, my real target being the final look and not the historical accuracy regarding paint. However the Humbrol 86 and 116 are good a good start. The base coat is highlighted only by spraying the top surfaces of the hull. I even ended up with light green. I did not use the modulation colour style, as I am not too familiar with this technique, so my way of painting is quite traditional.

The first weathering stage starts ▶

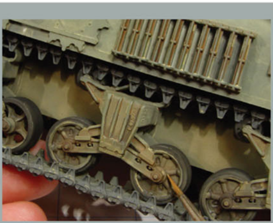

The base colour is a blend of Humbrol Enamel 86 Matt Light Olive and 116 Matt US Dark Green.

The figure is one of a crew of four from Nemrod.



The improvised turret roof was literally covered with several burnt umber washes which when dry was coated with pastel powders.

The sand bags were painted by airbrush.



Pastels can be used dry or wet. For wet application, I always use small amounts of turpentine. I first mix the powder with the thinners in a small plastic tin and then I work on small areas at a time.

Detail parts are picked out with a fine brush.

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FINE TRANSFERS™

The markings were sourced from the excellent Archer Fine Transfers range.

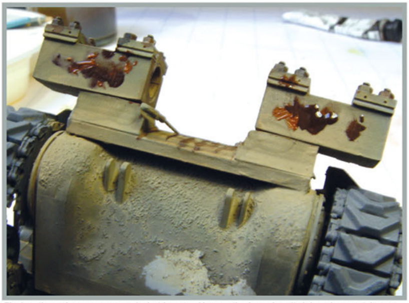
The dry transfers are rubbed down onto the surface of the model, straight on top of flat paint.

with an overall spray of a mixture of Humbrol flesh and sand yellow. This veil of paint is mostly used to fade the paint and to break the contrasts between the green hues. The sand bags received a first coat of light brown.

The airbrush work was nearly finished. Before going any further, I made a wooden roof from balsa wood. It was meant to protect the large open gap on the turret roof. It also helps to hide the rather empty compartment.

The road wheel rubber band was hand painted with very dark grey, nearly black Humbrol paint. It is one of the most difficult painting operations, and I must say that I do not enjoy it. Probably because you have to manipulate the model, time and time again!

After this, I started adding a series of filters using very light colours such as light yellow or sand yellow. These filters were applied onto the model until the desired effect was reached. Oil paint is one of my preferred medium, and I always start to use it at this stage. I mix little quantities of burnt sienna, burnt umber and black with turpentine. All the crevices, nook and crannies as well as some of the most raised details are worked out carefully with a fine pointed brush. Bolts and rivets are treated the same way. I also reproduced the rust streaks and dirt marks at the same time. Using the very same mixture, I also outlined the few structure lines on the rear engine deck, around the bolts, around the petrol tank covers and all the other places that required such treatment.



The heavily used areas were reworked with a mix of brown oil colours. I applied the colour straight onto the model, left it a few minutes and worked them with turpentine until I got a kind of very dirty look.

After the first filters and washes, I fixed a few transfers found in Archer's excellent range. A white star was fixed onto the turret access hatches and a small one at the back on the pusher.

The heavily used areas were reworked with a mix of brown oil colours. I applied the colour straight onto the model, left it a few minutes and worked them with turpentine until I got a kind of very dirty look. Logically, one should only work on horizontal surfaces. Darker colours can also be used to represent oil stains, which are often found on such vehicles.

The most important job to do on the model is to apply the pastels. They are used to represent dust, mud, rain marks and all sorts of elements that contribute to give that extra touch of realism to your model. Pastels can be used dry or wet. I use both techniques.

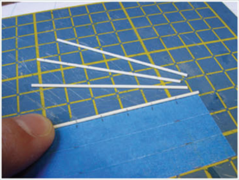
For wet application, I always use small amounts of turpentine. I first mix the powder with the thinners in a small plastic tin and then I work on small areas at a time. Using a hair dryer greatly reduces the drying time. When fully dry, any excess can be removed. If you feel there is too much or not enough, you can remove or add pastels as you like. The most important is to keep the word "realistic" in mind. Do not overdo this process or it could ruin your model. The running gear was heavily treated with this process, as well as the rollers. I deliberately chose lighter tones of brown sometimes mixed with sand and ivory colours. I took care to obtain a contrasted effect over the entire model and not a plain green boring one.

The tracks received a coat of dark brown followed by a wash of light brown oil paint. This simulated the dust and mud that accumulated into the tracks. The chain system at the front was treated in the very same way, but I also added some black oil into which I added quite a lot of Humbrol clear varnish.

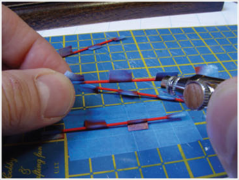
The improvised turret roof was literally covered with several burnt umber washes which when dry was coated with pastel powders. The excess was quickly removed, the resulting aspect looking like an old rotten plank.

The cables were all coated with a nice red brown colour from Humbrol. Later I covered them with a thick coat of rusty pastel powder. All the weathering stages mentioned here were repeated until the desired effect was achieved.

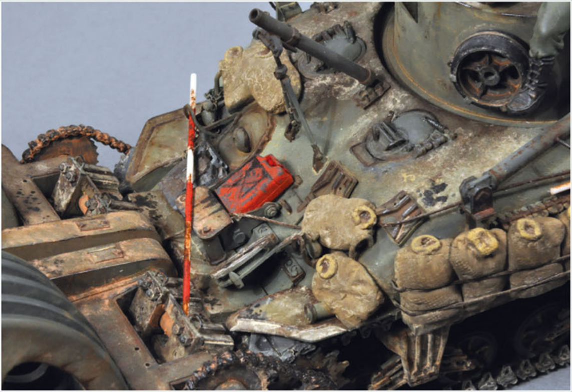
The figure is part of the excellent Nemrod range of figures. It came from a box of four, and they carry winter garments and equipment. The face was also painted with oils. I mainly used yellow ochre, burnt sienna, burnt umber and a small amount of red for the lips. The rest of the figure was painted with Humbrol colours. Hands were painted with a coat of



The distance poles were cut to size and marked for later painting.



The poles were masked and sprayed red and white.



The effect of the weathering and the clutter is very impressive.

green to represent winter gloves.

The red and white poles were used to mark the cleared paths. These are Evergreen plastic rods. I used 1cm wide sellotape to mask the poles. This was simple but once on the model, this is quite effective.

All that was left was to add a metallic shine to the edges of the vehicle. For this, I used a 6B graphite pencil. I just let the tip of the pencil roll along the edges of the hull and the most raised details, such as the lifting plugs, the hatches handles, the turret details, the tracks, the tool set.

CONCLUSION

This was a very nice conversion and it gave me the opportunity to add another Sherman to my collection. I would like to thank all the people who helped me during this project, especially the generous donors of spare parts, and Graham Sellar for its confidence and the tracks. ■

Thanks also to Christian Sauvé from Historex France for the Nemrod figure.

Modelspec

Italeri M32 (6203) & Verlinden Sherman T1E3 resin conversion set (VERL00827)

Accessories Used

Resicast Resin tracks, Nemrod figure, Home made sand bags.

Paints and Finishing Products

Humbrol Enamels: 33 Matt Black; 61 Matt Flesh; 63 Matt Sand; 86 Matt Light Olive; 116 Matt US Dark Green.
Oil Paints: Yellow Ochre, Red, White, Burnt Sienna, Raw Umber and Lamp Black

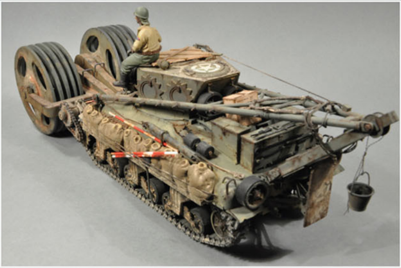
✓ Interesting project; unique vehicle, ambitious Verlinden resin roller conversion; excellent figure.

✗ Lots of preparation required for the Verlinden T1E3 conversion.

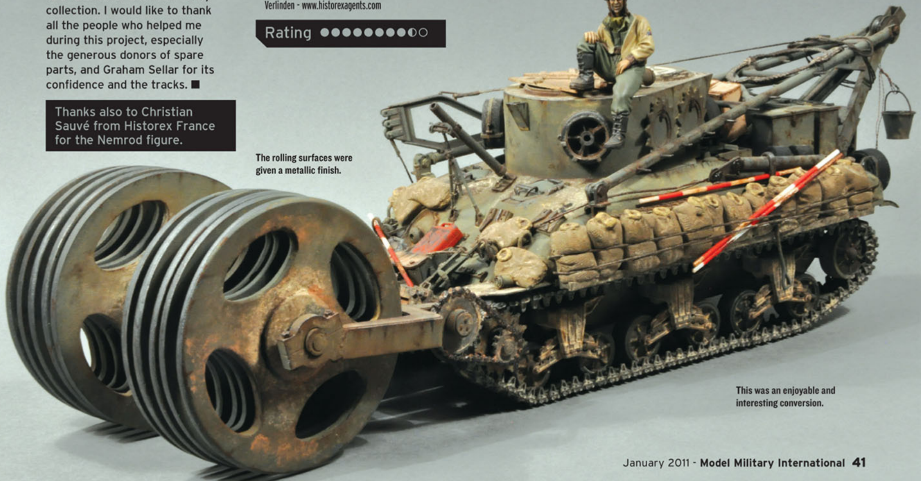
Available from

Italeri - www.hobbyco.net - available in all good model shops Worldwide.
Verlinden - www.historexagents.com

Rating ●●●●●●●●◐○



The bright red and white poles have been added to the sides of the vehicle.



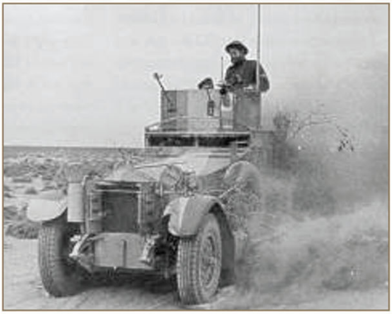
The rolling surfaces were given a metallic finish.

This was an enjoyable and interesting conversion.

STANDARD CAMOUFLAGE COLOURS FOR MIDDLE EAST

PART NINE – ROLLS-ROYCE / FORDSON ARMOURED CAR

William Marshall continues his analysis of an important source document describing the contentious camouflage colours used by British and Commonwealth military vehicles during the WWII campaign for the Middle East and North Africa. In Part Nine, William describes the application of Caunter camouflage to a Rolls-Royce / Fordson Armoured Car.

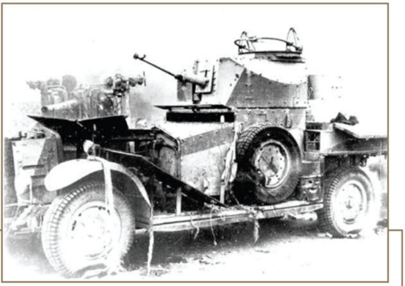


The Rolls Royce armoured car, of which a number were converted to Fordsons, was an early candidate for the Caunter scheme.

Early vehicles stationed in Egypt and Palestine can be seen in these colours.

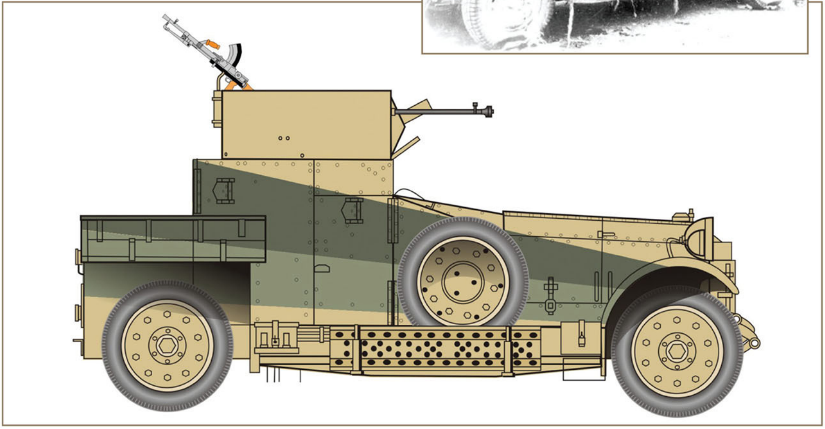
Fordson armoured cars were also camouflaged in a similar two tone scheme that can easily be confused with the Caunter. ■

(Top-right) A Caunter painted Rolls Royce/Fordson armoured car on the move.



(Right) Although contrasty and of indifferent quality, this photo still shows the clear and sharp demarcation of the Caunter scheme on the side of the body.

(Below) A profile showing the left side of the Caunter scheme for the Rolls Royce/Fordson armoured car.



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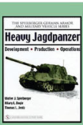

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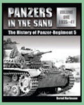

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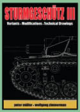

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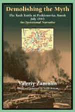

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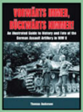

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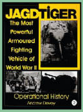

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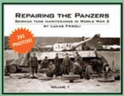

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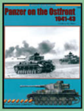

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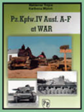

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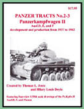

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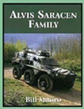

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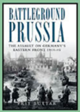

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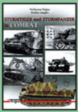

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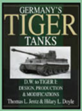

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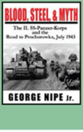

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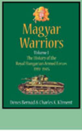

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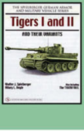

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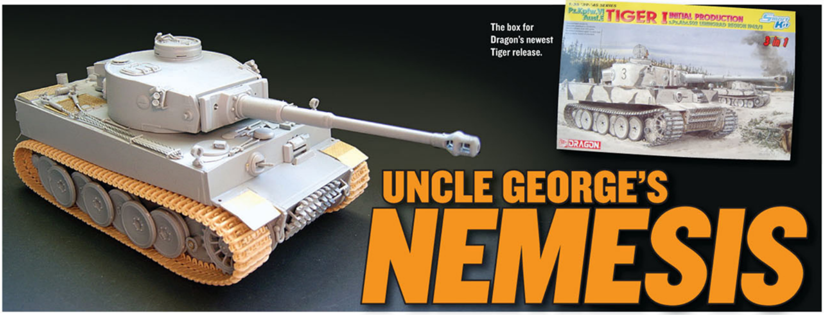


The box for Dragon's newest Tiger release.

UNCLE GEORGE'S NEMESIS

Graham Tetley reviews and builds Dragon's 1:35 scale Tiger I Initial Production.

I have my late Uncle George to thank for giving me my interest in Tigers. Uncle George served in North Africa with the 8th Army and, perhaps 30 years or so ago, he told about the time that he and his mates came across a Tiger. I distinctly remember him saying that they would have done more damage by hurling bad language at it rather than the shells that they had, such was the impression that he had of the machine.

Knowing what I know now, it was probably a Panzer III or IV that he was referring to, but sadly Uncle George died long before my interest was sufficient to be able to quiz him about the details. But his story started off my love affair with the Tiger.

Dragon's love for all things Tiger started back in 2004. This kit is the latest in the line. It is a reworking of that very first Tiger kit. Gone are the Magic Tracks, the box of metal goodies, turned metal barrel and the figures. What we now have is less brass, more plastic, new markings and paint schemes, as well as new DS Tracks. So is it just another Tiger kit?

Tracks and Suspension

Starting with the tracks we now have three lengths of DS tracks, giving us the option of mirrored or identical tracks. The DS tracks are beautifully detailed with the correct holes in the guide horns, but you also get a handful of equally nice, plastic track links (minus hollow guide horns though) for the hull front. The idler wheel is adjustable so you can add a bit of tension to the DS tracks if needed.

Nicely detailed dished road-wheels with rubber rims are provided. You also get optional wheel hubs for the first stations to depict the front outer road-wheels removed, as was a common practice due to mud packing between the road wheels leading to failure of the transmission. All torsion bars are separate, little pips ensure that everything stays level but removal of these pips will give you a poseable suspension if you so wish. Details on all road wheels, drive sprockets and idlers are nice and crisp.

HULL

The lower hull is molded in one piece and the main difference between this and the earlier Tiger kits are that the round belly access plates are now flush. You are not going to see this with the kit sat on it's tracks, but at least you know it's there.

The exhaust pipe extensions are totally new and give the modeler two styles as part of the deep wading system.

SUPERSTRUCTURE

Optional glacis plates are given as well as two sets of tools. One has molded on clamps and brackets while the other set is bare and needs the etched brass clamps that are provided. The tow cables come as multi-part plastic loops & wire cabling accessories but whether you need them or not is problematical – read on for details. Separate mounts for the headlamps are given and the lamps themselves include clear lenses if you want to leave the covers off.

TURRET

This is a two-piece affair with openings for the separate pistol ports, accurate drum cupola and nice weld detail. Two types of Gepäckkasten (stowage bins) come in this kit and both are multi-part assemblies with separate lids.

The 8.8cm KwK L/56 now comes with a plastic barrel and a semi-detailed breech. The optional mantlets are the same as kit 6252, as are the numbers provided that can be cut away from the sprue and placed on the mantlets to provide the casting numerals.

CONSTRUCTION

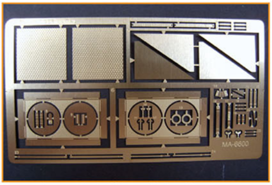
It is great to see what is in a kit, but it is even better to know how it goes together. What I aim to do here is to point out to you any construction hints and instruction bloopers. I am not going to point out accuracy issues as this is a simple "what's in the box and if I built it again what would I do differently" look.

I started off by what I find to be the most tedious part of assembly, which is the running gear. Dragon gives you lots of lovely parts to replicate the internal torsion bar suspension but I left these parts off on my kit. They are nice, but you can't see them when the vehicle is closed up. As for the torsion bars themselves, their fit to the hull is perfect. The tolerance on these parts is such that you can push-fit the road wheels together and remove them later for painting.

There are now several options that you are faced with in construction based upon whichever of the three tanks you want to model. In general, the instructions are adequate in this regard, but the multitude of optional parts will need to be chosen based upon references. For example, which optional glacis plate will you use, gun barrel, or gun mantlet? Do you want to use the optional snorkeling parts (on any of the three versions) or not? You need to decide at this stage as there is no going back.

As the Tiger is basically a box on tracks my next step was to get the hull together. Be warned though – whilst Dragon tell you to open up specific holes on the upper hull for whichever version you want they do not tell you to open up the holes in the rear plate. So the upper & lower hulls, rear plate G25, hull extensions G23 & 24 and front glacis F20 were all glued together. I like to do this so that I can get the basic kit all level & square before adding any other parts, and with this kit there were

The photo-etched mesh grilles and small metal parts come snugly packed.



Here are the new and revised photo-etched metal parts.

Three lengths of flexible DS track are provided, giving us the option of mirrored or identical tracks.

no fit issues. Regarding the parts for areas under the engine deck you can still get them in with the upper hull glued in place, likewise the bits for the front glacis can still be accessed.

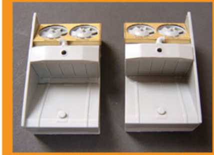
However, once that decision is made, construction is surprisingly trouble free. The fit of all other hull and turret parts, large or small, is first rate and nothing more needs to be said.

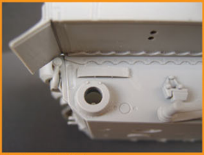
On my kit I opted to use the plastic tools with molded on clasps, although you do get optional tools and jack with brass holders. It was just quicker this way and there is not too much of a loss in detail.

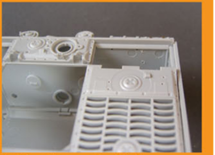
Now, let's look at some construction issues. A minor niggle is that the brass parts that represent the metal plate of the fenders need to be bent but there are no bending locations provided.

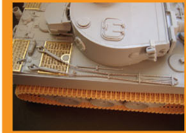
I mentioned earlier that Dragon has, in this kit, done away with the plastic towing hawsers. I wish they would re-consider this. There are no measurements provided for how long the metal wire should be cut (175mm to 190mm will do) and I had to drill out the tow cable ends to get it to fit. That is aside from trying to get it cut, bent and straightened out. Its gauge is too wide, which then results in issues when you have to sandwich it between the plastic mounts parts S10 and S11 & S14 and S15. I had to use a round file to open up the appropriate areas on S14 & 15.

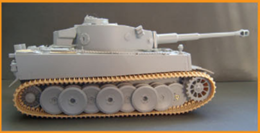
Moving on to the turret the instructions tell you to remove the raised location points when using the Panzer III stowage bin. I mounted the Panzer III bin simply because I liked the look and mounted it to the indicated marks on the turret. However, if you do this, when you rotate the turret it fouls the antenna base part J16. In the grand scheme of things this is a minor point, which is solved by raising the bin by 0.5mm. Difficult though when, like me, you find that the glue had set on the parts!

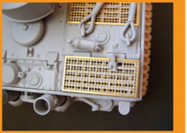

This lovely radiator detail will be entirely hidden!

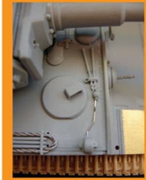

More lower hull detail.

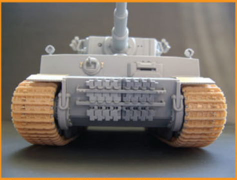

Don't forget to open up these holes!

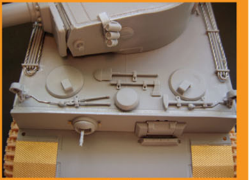

Overall view of the tow cable. It is probably best to leave it off.

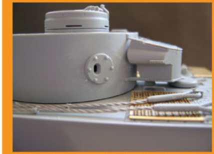

The DS tracks before being glued down.

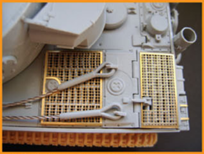

The pre-formed etch fits the grills very well.

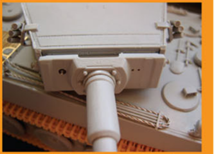

The pre-formed wires to the Notek lights. Not a good fit.

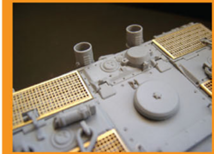

The front glacis showing the spare Magic Tracks.

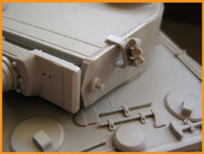

The plastic tools are more than adequate.

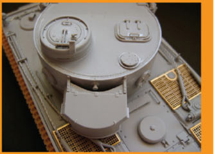

Detail on the stowage bin and pistol port.


Etched grilles and tow cable ends.


The gun mantlet. Note the small casting numbers.


The new exhaust caps.


Turret close up. The smoke pot inserts are separate parts.


Turret and cupola details.

INSTRUCTION ISSUES

Unfortunately the instructions on this kit appear to have been slimmed down from the original early Tiger kit 6252. This leaves the builder with a frustrating lack of information.

1. Whilst the idler wheel is positionable you do not get a drawing showing you the recommended position. The original instructions show you this.
2. The box art and drawings show the towing hawser not fitted, but as the instructions call out their assembly I fitted them. The original kit did not include these hawsers so it would be nice to know if they are optional or not, especially as you have to open up holes on the upper hull early on in construction. I would recommend leaving them off and NOT opening up the holes in the upper hull, they are an unnecessary blot on an otherwise excellent build.
3. There are various location parts for the other optional bins that the instructions do not tell you to remove. The original Early Tiger kit 6252 does point this out.
4. In step 16 Part C24 is actually A24. It is numbered correctly in the original kit.
5. If you choose to use the brass tool clamps Dragon do not tell you that there are bending formers provided on Sprue TA. Yes, you have guessed it, the original kit tells you this !
   The original kit has a ten-page instruction sheet. This kit has eight. I think Dragon has cut a few too many corners with this kit's instructions.

The DS tracks in this kit fit beautifully to the sprockets and idlers and are among Dragon's best in this area.

DECALS AND MARKING INFORMATION

Waterslide decals are included for three tanks that represent examples of the initial production batch deployed to the Leningrad front in 1942-43 with s.Pz.Abt.502.

CONCLUSION

The initial release of the Tiger was excellent, and whilst this new incarnation is crisply molded, expertly engineered and well researched I can't help but feel that we have a slimmed down re-boxing.

What I find puzzling is the omission of parts and steps from the instructions from previous Tiger kits. Their inclusion here would make this one so much more user friendly. I refer, of course, to the tow hawsers. Considering the price charged for this kit I do not think that it is too much to ask. If the instructions had not been chopped it could be ideal for a new modeller with a few kits under his/her belt, as it stands it is an experienced hobbyist's kit and best enjoyed if you build it whilst cross-referencing to the better instructions provided in the original early Tiger kit. ■

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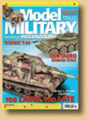

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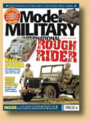

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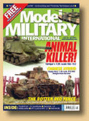

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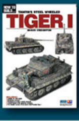

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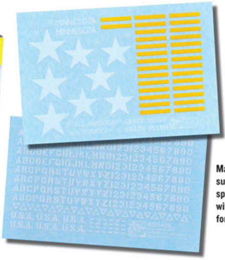


Markings are supplied for three specific vehicles with a generic sheet for serial numbers.

FIRE FROM THE PULPIT

Graham Tetley finds that Dragon has delivered a fine new 1:35 scale M7 Priest, and with a surprisingly low parts count.

It had to happen. After working through the Sherman series and releasing the 105mm gun it seemed almost inevitable that Dragon would give us a Priest and here it is. On close inspection it looks very good, although there are a few nitpicks and omissions.

What we get is just short of 300 plastic parts, which is a surprisingly low number. In fact I thought that I had acquired a faulty kit with missing sprues as there is a lot of space in the box. A check of the parts drawings confirmed that no, my kit was complete. It is, after all, a 'Smart' kit.

I was also surprised at the amount of new parts in this kit. The only re-used parts are from the 105mm howitzer kit and the early VVSS suspension system from the M4A1 DV kits. The lower hull pan and superstructure is totally new, plus Dragon also provides a newly tooled three-piece differential cover.

This kit features the early Sherman suspension system and the main parts have fine casting texture but lack foundry symbols and casting numbers. The instructions recommended that the idler wheel axles are not fixed in place until the tracks are fitted, and there is no room here to tension the tracks. The tracks themselves are the T48 rubber chevron type and made of flexible DS plastic.

The new lower hull is provided as a single, slide-moulded part and features the proper details for the Priest.

The new three-piece cast transmission/final drive cover is slide moulded and has subtle casting texture, foundry numbers and drain plug details on it. There is a mould seam running across the lower portion. Removal will mean loss of the cast texture, but on previous Sherman kits I have restored this by stippling liquid poly over the affected areas.

The engine access doors on the rear hull plate are moulded shut has a solid grab handle.

The basic shape of the superstructure is captured quite well and has subtle weld detail and tie-down loops present. The side and rear panels come with separate parts for the folding extensions that protected the ammunition stowage bins. There are no ejector pin marks present anywhere on the kit's interior. The front plate is lovely and has cast into it locations for the track grouser stowage, headlight guards as well as impressive weld bead detail. Unfortunately the grouser boxes are provided with the grousers moulded in situ. Personally I would have preferred these to be separate parts.

The engine deck is a separate part with three etched brass screens. Dragon has left the areas under these brass parts solid plastic so if you want to depict an engine they will either have to be carefully hollowed out or wait for the aftermarket to come to the rescue. The two smaller vents are covered by plastic parts so it is not too much of an issue, but the larger vent will pose a challenge.

The tools come as separate parts with their mounting straps moulded in place. Dragon provides a length of metal wire and plastic end loops for a tow cable.

The first thing you notice about the fighting compartment area is that the ammunition racks are partly filled with closed packing tubes. They are nicely moulded.

The driver's area comes adequately detailed for what is visible on the finished model. Detail below the MG pulpit is a bit sparse – you get the folding seat and bits for the weapons stowage but no weapons themselves or ammunition boxes for the .50 can machine gun. The gun itself is made from 8 parts and is lovely

The howitzer comprises parts from the existing kit mated with new ones for a Priest. Worthy of note are the new, thin, shield parts. The main howitzer barrel is slide-moulded and is completed with a turned aluminium end that has rifling in it.

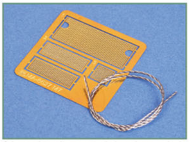
Instructions are typical for DML. The only error I can see so far is that Part A40 isn't numbered.

CONCLUSION

This is a nice, if slightly simplified, kit. Whilst I am puzzled that Dragon moulded the engine doors closed and left the areas below the deck vents solid. Even so, these are minor niggles. I do, however, find it strange that no effort has been made to provide the crew's weapons or ammunition for the .50 cal. In this open-topped vehicle, their omission is quite obvious.

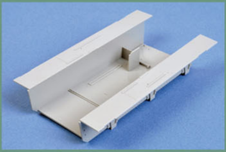
There is no loss of detail due to the low parts count but a raid of the spares box and some basic modelling will see you through.

I still think this is a great kit though and give it a 'Highly Recommended'. ■

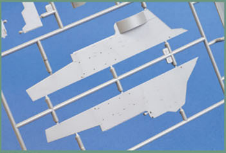


Other multimedia parts include a photo-etched fret and a tow cable.

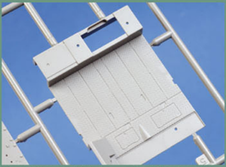
Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample www.hobbyco.net



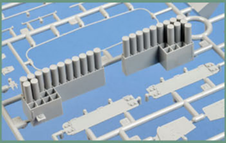
The one-piece lower hull.



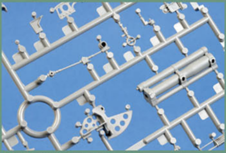
Hull sides.



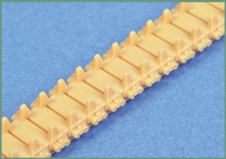
Tread plate on the fighting compartment floor is subtly rendered.



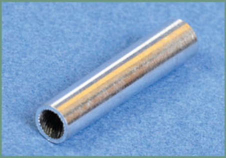
The ammo racks are cleverly cast in one piece each, including the packing tubes!



Elements of the 105mm howitzer.



Rubber chevron tracks are supplied in full-length flexible DS plastic.



The metal 105mm barrel features authentic rifling.

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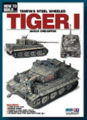

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Tamiya Model Magazine International 182 - Dec'10

- Angus Creighton tells a personal story about his RAF fighter-pilot uncle and builds the Hurricane and Spitfires he flew.
- Toni Canfora takes on Fine Molds' IJA Type 97 tank
- Eric Evain builds the new Lotus Type 79 in 1:20 from Tamiya.
- Peter Olsen weathers up Hasegawa's 1:32 Ki-61 'Hien'
- Andy Taylor takes Trumpeter's T-62 kit on a weathering journey ...
- Marcus Nicholls builds Revell's impressive 1:144 C-17A Globemaster III

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Model Airplane International 065 - Dec'10

- Kwik Builds of the Airfix 1:72 Sea Harrier FRS.1 & FA.2 and HobbyBoss 1:48 Tornado IDS by Alan Bottoms
- Kwik Build Ultra of the Revell 1:32 Piper Cub Floatplane by Alan Bottoms
- John 'Tigger' Wilkes builds Trumpeter's new 1:32 MiG-23ML
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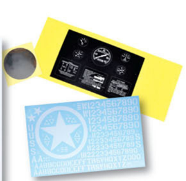


Markings include generic US serial numbers and Allied stars.
Instruments and stencil placards are provided on a self-adhesive sheet.

BY ANY OTHER NAME...

Al Bowie discovers that a Jeep by any other name would still smell as sweet, even a really big one!

Despite the name on the box we all know what it is.

Dragon now offers a kit version of their excellent pre-built Jeep in the monster scale of 1:6, which neatly compliments their range of action figures (or Battle Barbies as they are cruelly referred to by my modelling mates). By my references, the kit represents a Willys MB of pre 1944 manufacture with the eight leaf spring suspension. After 1944 they were fitted with ten leaf suspension. The chassis has the cross member above the rear axle indicating a Willys MB series.

Everything about this kit is big, starting with the box. Not surprisingly, it is filled to the brim with very large sprues of the typical DML light grey styrene and a packet of screws and metal rods. The other thing items you notice are the decal sheet and the instrument sheet in their own protective bag. There are sixteen large sprues and five wheels and tyres carefully packed into the box. If you get the packing order wrong you will not get them back into the box again!

Despite its size, this is just a kit and goes together like any other model but on a bigger scale.

The chassis is extremely well detailed and broken into five sub assemblies although the DML instructions aren't as clear on this as they could be. The leaf spring assemblies are made up from two parts split vertically. It will be a challenge to remove the seams when assembled. The wheels already have their vinyl tyres fitted which are quite soft and have a seam down the centre of the tread. This is easily removed by a sharp no. 11 blade.

The seats are textured and dimpled to represent the cloth covers of the real thing. Other sub-assemblies such as the body panels include the addition of pioneer tools, which I recommend leaving until you have assembled the body of the vehicle. Dragon provides black metal buckles and OD webbing tape to make the down straps etc,. This is an advantage in such a large kit where they will be quite prominent.

A large one-piece clear styrene windshield is included. This fits into the frame like the original. Careful masking will be required as some of the frame is moulded on to the clear screen. Clear parts are also included for the light lenses and the side reflectors although these are devoid of any surface texture indicating the sockets only as was usually the case.

Dragon has let themselves down under the hood. Although they give you a well detailed multi part detailed radiator and a battery, they neglect to include any engine at all which will be noticeable from underneath as they don't even provide a false bottom for the engine compartment. This is really strange since they went to lengths to make the bonnet catches operable.

The cabin is exceptional however, offering well detailed with stickers for the instruments and legible nomenclature and operating instruction plates which are near perfect replicas but no clear styrene faces are included. The only thing I could find different from the real thing was the absence of the manufacturer's logo on the nomenclature plate which, given licensing issues associated with the Jeep brand, is understandable.

The decal sheet is massive and offers various serial letters/numbers and Stars allowing any number of US Jeeps to be modelled. No markings for other than US examples are given and only one marking example is given, being C-2 of the US 10 Armoured Div. I think you are going to need quite few Jars of Olive Drab to paint this one, but Tamiya do a nice spray can of Olive Drab that will be an easier alternative.

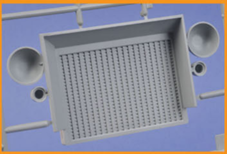
Dragon only provides parts for a basic Jeep but additional weaponry and accessories are available from DML, DID, Armopax, Hasbro, Ultimate Soldier and many others, as are suitable figures to display with them.

The level of detail in a kit this size is outstanding and very little is overlooked with the exception of the engine, weapon mounts and Allied decals. This is an outstanding release given the breadth of service the Jeep has had and continues to have. DML offer other pre built versions of this vehicle such as the SAS Jeep so I hope these will follow as kits or conversion sets.

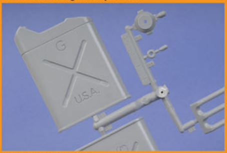
Highly recommended. ■

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample www.hobbyco.net

The reviewer lends a sense of scale to the main body of this big model.

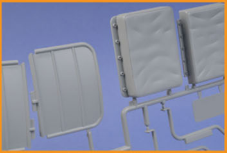


The radiator is impressive, although there is nothing behind it in the engine compartment.

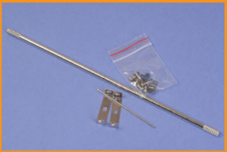


Jerry cans are included.

The instrument panel.

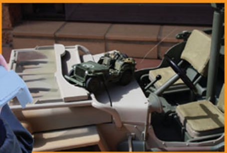


Seats feature realistic texture and fabric drape.



Metal parts to secure the big kit components.

The vinyl tyres are already fitted to the wheels.



Although this is not the Dragon kit, this 1:6 scale pre-built Jeep shows how big this model will be compared to Tamiya's 1:35 scale kit.

Letters

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BLACKEN-IT

Hi Brett, Great job with the magazine.

In September's issue of MMI, you indicated that "Blacken-it" may not be available in the UK.

May I please inform all UK modellers that it is available direct at www.transportmodels.co.uk

They also have an eBay shop it sells for around £6.50GBP

Danny Clark
UK

PAPER BACKED LEAD FOIL

Hi Ed, I recently picked up a copy of the October issue of your brilliant magazine and was reading through the Letters section when I came across Allan Mills' query about paper backed lead foil. I noticed you said that it may be used in association with dental x-ray films.

My Dad is a dentist so I asked him about it. He said that the packets containing the films have lead foil in them, and the walls of his surgeries are lined with paper backed lead foil to prevent radiation from escaping. However, it is a while since the radiation proofing was fitted and he couldn't remember the manufacturer, although radiation proofing looks like something to be looking into.

Hope this helps,
Euan Adamson (age 14), UK

***Ed says,* Hi Euan,**

Thanks for the insights and for the kind words about the magazine.

It is fascinating to think that the walls of dental surgeries might be lined with this stuff. Next time I am at the dentist, I will have to wait until he leaves the room and scrape some of the paper from his walls!

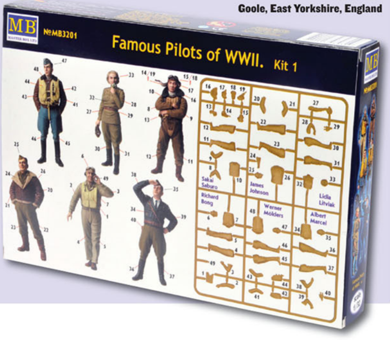
I will be curious to find out if anyone knows whether this radiation proofing is still available.

JOHNNIE JOHNSON

I read the review of the 1:32 Famous Pilots of WWII Kit 1 in issue 54 - October 2010 by Luke Pitt, and was a little surprised by the comments. After buying this kit some weeks ago for the very purpose of placing the figure of Johnnie Johnson next to the Tamiya 1/32 Spitfire, I was somewhat disappointed to find that the only figure not to look like the box cover was, you guessed it Johnnie Johnson, but that you do not even get his dog either in the kit. The fact that most websites who are selling this kit only show the box cover and not the back and to clarify in the article, which figure is supposed to be Johnnie Johnson, its the one bottom left, yes the one that to me looks more like an American pilot than the British Ace.

So if you want a British pilot as per the box cover avoid this kit and save your money, as for the quality of the other figures, they are very good but for me the kit was a total waste of money so be warned.

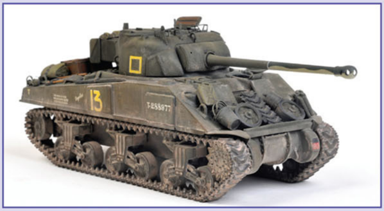
Dave Pidd
Goole, East Yorkshire, England

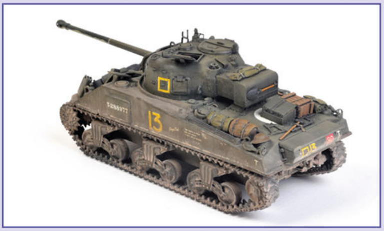


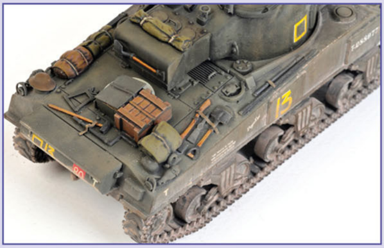
BONUS GALLERY

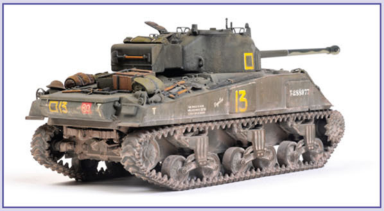
SHERMAN FIREFLY VC

We ran out of room for all the photos of the Editor's 1:48 scale Sherman Firefly Vc last month, so here are a few more.
Fighting 48th!'s multimedia conversion has been used on Tamiya's 1:48 scale Sherman to deliver the stretched hull Sherman Firefly Vc. Full details may be found in Issue 56 of Model Military International magazine.









Small Scale A round-up of the latest news and releases in 1:72 and 1:76

StuG.III Ausf.G
Early Production w/schürzen
1:72
ARMOR PRO
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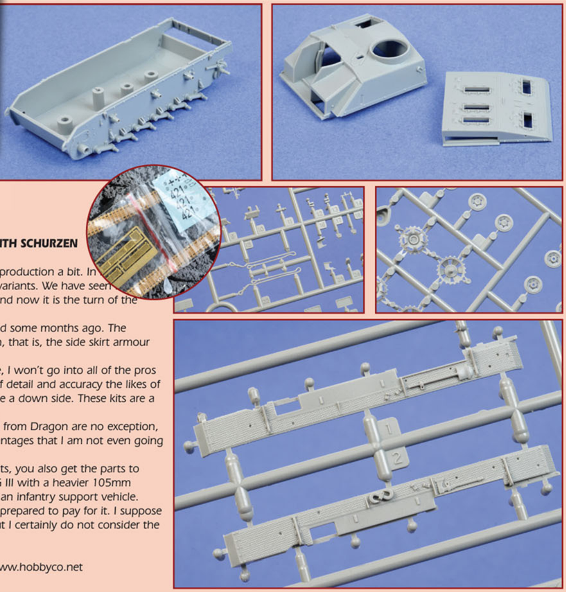


DRAGON

ARMOUR PRO SERIES

1:72 SCALE • STUG. III AUSF. G EARLY PRODUCTION WITH SCHURZEN

KIT NO. 7354

With the Global Financial Crisis, Dragon has slowed their production a bit. In Dragon has just modified existing kits to deliver different variants. We have seen their Tiger I Initial Production, Panzer IV Ausf. F1 and F2 and now it is the turn of the Sturmgeschutz III.

Dragon's Stug III Ausf. G (early), kit No. 7283, was released some months ago. The contents of this kit are the same but with added Schurzen, that is, the side skirt armour fitted to combat hollow charge rounds.

As Dragon is now the acknowledged master of 1:72 scale, I won't go into all of the pros and cons but will just say that they are giving us a level of detail and accuracy the likes of which we've never seen before. Of course, there has to be a down side. These kits are a little on the expensive side, some say a bit too expensive.

Now, there is no such thing as a perfect kit and these kits from Dragon are no exception, but the faults are so insignificant compared with the advantages that I am not even going to mention them.

Along with the extra sprue for the Schurzen and its mounts, you also get the parts to build the model as a Sturmhaubitze 42, (StuH. 42), a StuG III with a heavier 105mm howitzer replacing the usual 75mm gun and designed as an infantry support vehicle.

I am a firm believer that if you want quality, you must be prepared to pay for it. I suppose there must be a limit and I have no idea where that is; but I certainly do not consider the Dragon kits to be beyond it!

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample www.hobbyco.net

Glen Porter

SMALL SCALE GALLERY

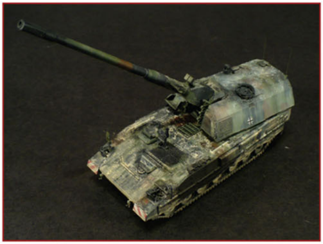
REVELL

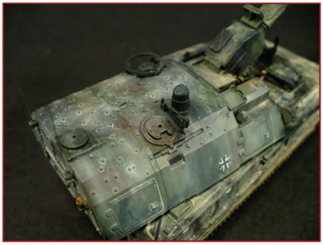
1:72 PANZERHAUBITZE 2000

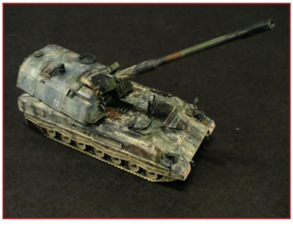
Tomasz Hejmo has sent these photos of his 1:72 scale Revell Panzerhaubitze 2000, a modern German howitzer. This is a great kit, and the subject really lends itself to this scale. The vehicle is so big that the model is a decent size, even in 1:72.

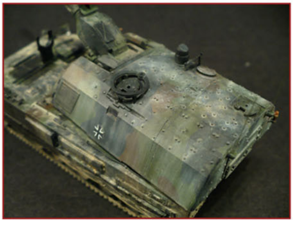
Tomasz's Panzerhaubitze 2000 was built almost straight from the box. Only a tow cable from Eureka XXL for a Leopard 2 was added.

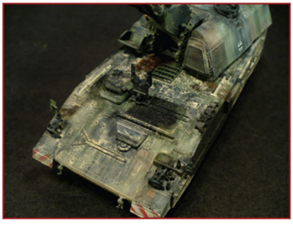
The model was finished using Vallejo acrylics, oils and pigments.











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AMPS Atlanta is holding its 3rd annual model show February 18 - 20, 2011 in Atlanta, GA USA. This is a great opportunity to tune up for the AMPS International show being held in April 2011. This show is being held in cooperation with the Atlanta Military Figure Society and boasts a broad appeal and a sizable vendor area. Visit our web site at www.ampsatlanta.org for more details.

May 8th
Modellbaufreunde Siegen Model Show, Germany.
8th Modellbaufreunde Siegen Model Show will be held on 8 May 2011 at Festival Hall in Wilnsdorf, Germany.
For more information please email info@modellbaufreunde-siegen.de or visit www.modellbaufreunde-siegen.de

March 11th
The18th Annual IndianapolisWinter Model Contest & Swap Meet.
Indianapolis, IN. March 12, 2011: The18th Annual Winter Model Contest & Swap Meet will be hosted by IPMS Roscoe Turner, at the Raymond Park Middle School, 8575 E. Raymond St, Indianapolis, IN.
For contest information contact Rick Wilkes, e-mail rwilkes698@aol.com, for vendor information contact Ron Young, e-mail youngones@comcast.net, or write P.O. Box 1376 Greenwood, IN 46142; or visit; www.ipmsroscoeturner.org.

May 15th
MIDLAND EXPO 2011
IPMS Birmingham is pleased to announce the return of Midland Expo at a new venue, Cocks Moors Woods Leisure Centre and Golf Course, Alcester Road South, Kings Heath, Birmingham. B14 6ER., in 2011. We have a confirmed date of Sunday 15th May 2011 for the show and look forward to seeing many of the regular exhibitors, traders and vistors who used to attend Midland Expo at the old venue.

March 26th-27th
IPMS Norway`s Nationals.
On 26 and 27 March 2011, IPMS Norway is holding its annual competition and exhibition at Letohallen near Gardermoen International Airport. This is one of the largest model competitions in Scandinavia and, like last year, we will have different demonstrations and how-tos from both international and national modelbuilders.
For more information see www.ipmsnorge.org/portal/
Questions regarding the show can be sent to post@ipmsnorge.org
We would like to welcome all types of model builders from all parts of the world!

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Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL
WAR & PEACE BELTRING 2010 Show Report
DIMINUTIVE FOX
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Photo Feature
GUN JEEPS OF THE DESERT RAIDERS

This service will be extended to Android device users and for viewing on PC and Mac computers soon!

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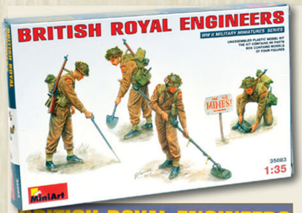
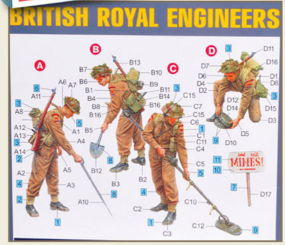
ADH PUBLISHING

Figures - A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...





MINI ART

1:35 SCALE BRITISH ROYAL ENGINEERS • ITEM NO. 35083

MiniArt has established a well-earned reputation for original releases and this set continues the recent theme of Commonwealth subjects. For the first time a manufacturer has realised the British and Commonwealth Armies weren't just made up of Paratroops, the 8th Army, SAS and Infantry. MiniArt has stepped ahead and not just up the same well-trodden path with a fantastic set of four Royal Engineers undertaking the necessary but very dangerous mine detection and clearance role.

The set is in the typical format for MinArt figures with wonderful box art that is on par with the latest DML stuff. Inside is a bag containing two sprues in light grey plastic and a paper sheet showing the parts layout.

The figures are multipart and comprise three standing and one crouching figures. All figures are depicted in 1937 Pattern Battle Dress with Mk. II helmets covered in netting with scrim. Figure A is depicted using a mine prod and has full marching order including a slung No 4 Mk 1 rifle. Figure B is shown in that much practiced military art - digging with a shovel. The centrepiece figure is using the No 3 Detector, which is quite complete. The last figure is depicted either lifting or laying a mine (included but I couldn't recognise what type it is) in a crouching position.

The facial sculpts and details on the equipment were well done with the exception of the gas mask case, which is the wrong shape and depth. No bayonets are supplied for the three rifles included, which are exceptionally well detailed and a better shape than other manufacturers' depictions. There is a bit of flash on most parts and the detail is a little soft but the animations are all lifelike will form the basis of a nice little vignette on their own. A welcome bonus is the small sign but no decals are included either for the sign or for the uniform insignia, which is a pity.

In summary, this is a long requested and very welcome set. They are multipose in nature and well detailed with the exception of the misshapen gas mask case and the lack of Bayonets. I look forward to MiniArts next Commonwealth releases

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Creative Models Limited for the sample www.creativemodels.co.uk

Al Bowie

SAS JEEP CREW
NWM-35052

NEW WORLD MINIATURES

1:35 SCALE

SAS JEEP CREW • ITEM NO. NWM-35052

BRITISH PARAS ARNHEM • ITEM NO. NWM-35062

New World Miniatures has just released two new figure sets of British WWII subjects.

The first is a driver and passenger for an SAS Jeep. The bearded figures are depicted in the Western Desert, wearing combination shorts and Arab kafirs. The driver figure is also wearing gloves. The set is made up from 13 parts in grey-green coloured resin.

The second set is two British Paras on patrol in Arnhem. One is carrying a Lee-Enfield .303 rifle, while the other has a Bren Gun. The Bren Gunner's hand is cleverly moulded to the weapon itself. The body and legs are cast in one piece for each figure, which will make assembly very straightforward.

These figures are also available separately as Item Nos. 35063 and 35064 (the Bren Gunner wears a beret in the individual boxing).

Casting quality is perfect on both my samples, and cleanup will be fast thanks to minimal casting blocks. The poses, drape of the clothing and facial detail are all gorgeous. Both sets offer plenty of opportunity for interesting vignettes and dioramas.

New World Miniatures figures are available online from www.newworldminiatures.com

Brett Green

New World Miniatures
Sculpted by Brian Stewart
Painted by Dan Capuano
© 2010 New World Miniatures
Sling not included
NWM-35062 British Paras, Arnhem, 1944

ADF SOLDIER IRAQ 2005
LLOYD'S SCALE MODELS

LLOYD'S SCALE MODELS

120MM SCALE

ADF SOLDIER IRAQ 2005

NO ITEM NUMBER

It is always nice to see a new manufacturer hit the market, and this one does not disappoint at all.

This new figure from Lloyd's Scale Models is a 120mm scale Australian Defence Force soldier in Iraq, 2005, on patrol with the new desert type camouflage and chest rig webbing that was issued to those who were deployed. Inside the nicely illustrated box are 20 light tan resin parts, all well detailed, though care will be required when removing parts from the holding blocks, especially the weapon sections. Some filler may be needed as well, but this should not be a big challenge.

This figure is well posed and proportioned is an excellent representation of an ADF member on patrol in the mean streets of Iraq. The way he holds his Streyr to the way his equipment sits on his body is very accurate.

This is a very nice figure and worth having in one's collection. Lets hope more modern ADF subjects are released in the future. A Specops operator would be nice, hint hint...

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Lloyd for the sample www.lloydscale.com

Andrew Judson

Squadron/Signal Publications

Over 250 books offering a wealth of information

SQUADRON/SIGNAL PUBLICATIONS MODELLING REFERENCE BOOKS

Squadron Signal Publications is one of the best known and most extensive ranges of modelling reference books ever published, featuring high quality photographs of aircraft, tanks, ships and more in action, as well as an ever-expanding range of 'walk-around' volumes which show the subject inside and out in crystal-clear photographs - perfect for superdetailing projects.

The books have been helping modellers to add essential details, find markings and apply paint schemes to aircraft, armour and ship models for many years, and the great news is that Squadron Signal books are now easier to find than ever before, because ADH Publishing, the company that brings you Tamiya Model Magazine International each month, is importing them from the USA.

You can find Squadron Signal at good model and book shops, and you can also check www.adhbooks.com to see what we have on offer!

Please call us now for full details of prices, availability and range; UK (+44) 01525 222573

SS5720 - M3A1 White Scout Car Walkaround

M3A1 Scout Car
Walk Around
Squadron/Signal

The White Motor Company began serial production of the four-wheel-drive M3A1 Scout Car in 1940. Covered in quarter-inch face-hardened armor, the vehicle served the US military as scout, command car, ambulance and in some cases as a gun tractor. Armed with one .50 caliber and two .30 caliber machine guns on a skate rail that completely surrounded the fighting compartment, the M3A1 saw action in the Philippine tropics, the North African desert and during the 1943 invasion of Sicily. However, US forces soon replaced the open-topped M3A1 with other armoured vehicles that afforded better coverage. Because the vehicle was widely exported it served on - heavily used by the Red Army on the Eastern Front and by Free French, Belgian, Czechoslovak and Polish forces throughout WWII. Later, France took the vehicle into combat in colonial wars in Indochina and Algeria. Illustrated with more than 200 photographs, plus color profiles and detailed line drawings. 80 pages.

SS5722 - Valentine Tank Walk Around

Valentine Tank
Walk Around
Squadron/Signal

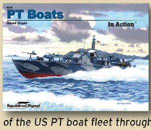
The Valentine Infantry Tank III, a private venture design from Vickers-Armstrong, was the third of Great Britain's Infantry Tank designs. Though not the first tank to go into battle against the Axis in World War II, the Valentine has the distinction of having the highest production numbers of any wartime British tank, and arguably the most variations. A total of 8,275 Valentines were produced in no fewer than 11 major variations – from Mark I to Mark XI – along with Duplex Drive and other specialized versions. The Valentine received its baptism of fire with the British 8th Army in Operation Crusader in North Africa in July 1941. From that date until late 1943, the Valentine was Britain's primary Infantry Tank. Besides fighting under the Union Jack, Valentines saw action under the flags of Canada, the Soviet Union, Australia, and New Zealand. They took part in combat in both the European and Pacific Theaters, and after the war continued to serve several British Commonwealth armies as late as the 1950s. Illustrated with 250 photographs, plus color profiles and detailed line drawings. 88 pages.

SS1219 - B-17 Flying Fortress In Action

B-17 Flying Fortress
In Action
Squadron/Signal

This book delivers a visual overview of the aircraft's development and use. It also highlights the roles played by individual aircraft and their crews, such as the 'Memphis Belle', which completed 25 missions over enemy territory: 'Stage Door Canteen', christened by Winston Churchill's daughter; and 'All American', which demonstrated the incredible toughness of the Flying Fortress by returning safely to base despite having its tail nearly sheared off by a Messerschmitt. An unmatched, lavishly illustrated account of one of the greatest warplanes of all time. Illustrated with 200 vintage photographs, plus color profiles and detailed line drawings; 80 pages.

SS4034 - PT Boats in Action



American Patrol Torpedo (PT) boat crews served valiantly in every theatre during WWII. From the Aleutians to the Mediterranean, these men harassed enemy shipping, launched attacks against much more formidable warships, rescued downed air crews and spirited General Douglas MacArthur to safety from Corregidor Island in March of 1942. This volume chronicles the evaluation, use, and eventual destruction of the US PT boat fleet through 180 photographs, many of them colour. Covers ELCO, Higgins, and Huckins boats.

PO6003 - F4U Corsair

Famous Aircraft of the World
F4U
Chance Vought Corsair

The history of the distinctive and powerful 'Bent-Wing Bird' - inverted gull wing, carrier-capable fighter - concise overview of the aircraft's origins, service life, variants, colors and markings and highlights with the US Navy, US Marines and many foreign air services. Spans WWII, Korea, the Suez and even the 'Soccer War'. Illustrated with 34 b/w archival and 4 color photos; 112 all-around color detail photos revealing cockpit, engine, wing fold, undercarriage and exterior surfaces; 102 color profiles; 12 color plan views and 7 pages of 1/72 scale drawings clearly showing the defining characteristics of each production variant. 92 pages.

SS5564 - CONVAIR F-102A Delta Dagger Walk Around

F-102 Delta Dagger
Walk Around
Squadron/Signal

The Convair F-102A Delta Dagger was developed for the US Air Force as a supersonic interceptor at the onset of the Cold War. Within the US, 22 Air National Guard squadrons were equipped with the Dagger from 1960 until its retirement in 1976. The 102 was also deployed to Vietnam during the war in Indochina. Later it flew fighter patrols, escorted B-52s and was used offensively to attack ground installations. After retirement in the US, 152 of the planes were converted to high-speed unmanned drones for use as test targets for newer fighters. Illustrated with more than 200 photographs, plus colour profiles and detailed line drawings; 80 pages.

ALSO FROM ADH BOOKS...

NEW!

Messerschmitt Me 262
Airframe & Miniature No.1

Airframe & Miniature No 1

The Messerschmitt Me 262

A Guide to The Luftwaffe's First Jet Fighter

by Richard A. Franks • Valiant Wings Publishing

116 pages packed with vital information that no modeller of aviation subjects should be without. Technical information, full colour profiles, walkaround images, camouflage and markings and full kit builds in 1:72, 1:48 and 1:32.

Shown here is a selection of some of the most popular titles, many more available

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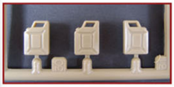
Sd.kfz2 KLEINES KETTENKRAFTRAD
1:35 MILITARY MINIATURE SERIES NO.29
• GERMAN MOTORCYCLE TRACTOR • COMBAT CREW OF 3
TAMIYA
1/35ミリタリーミニチュアシリーズNO.29
ドイツ・ケッテンクラート



TAMIYA

1:35 SCALE SD.KFZ. 2 KLEINES KETTENKRAFTRAD • KIT NO. 35029

I should start out by telling you that I have been collecting Tamiya armour kits for the past 22 years. I can also tell you that this little gem dates from August 1973 and that the original release had a metal engine in it.

Released exactly five years after I was born, I have to admit that this kit has stood the test of time better than I have!

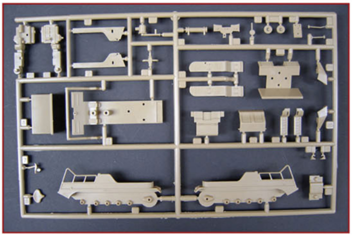
Tamiya has not modified the kit at all. What we get are three sprues, two for the Kettenkraftkrad and one containing three figures (a driver and two walking infantrymen) plus their equipment. It is fair to say that the detail is not up to current standards but it is adequate. What was ahead of its time were the instructions and here we have a full vehicle history, painting guide and idiot-proof assembly drawings.

I would have to say that this kit is not for the detail afflicted. But if you want a trip down memory lane, or a fun build, or a gift to give to someone to get them into this hobby of ours, then this is an ideal little kit.

Recommended.

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample www.hobbyco.net

Graham Tetley



DECAL FIX
WASH
WASH
WASH
MATT MEDIUM
DECAL MEDIUM
MATT VARNISH
GLAZE MEDIUM

VALLEJO

MODEL AIR PAINTS ACCESSORIES

ITEM NO. 73999

Vallejo has added a new Auxiliaries Accessory set to its range of painting and finishing products. This set delivers an acrylic Matt Varnish, a Glaze Medium (for improving acrylic paint flow and glossing up the colour), a Matt Medium (for matting down the paint colour), an alcohol-based Decal Medium for preparing surfaces for markings, water-based Decal Fix, and three acrylic washes. These are Sepia, Black and Pale Grey shades.

Each accessory is contained in a plastic squeeze bottle with a screw top. The eight bottles are packed into a convenient cardboard box.

I will be testing a few of these new products out on my latest project, so stay tuned for more details!

Recommended.

Thanks to Creative Models Limited for the samples www.creativemodels.co.uk

Brett Green

COLORS FOR MODELS & MINIATURES
COLORES PARA MODELISMO

ITALERI

1:35 SCALE TIGER 1 'HYBRID' • KIT NO. 6487

Italeri's newest Tiger release comprises of 370 parts and represents an early production Tiger Turret on a 'Late' version hull. The kit comprises five sprues of plastic parts plus one photo-etched fret.

The kit contains link and length track, an etched fret with engine grilles and side skirts, and a tub with a crude depiction of the engine. The instructions are nice and clear with uncluttered drawings.

Numerous ejector pin marks are on the tracks and exterior parts. Some are in hard to remove places. Some flash and heavy mould seams are present so clean-up on this kit will need to be carefully done. Optional parts are provided for depicting the side skirts and exhaust shrouds in either plastic or etch.

Overall, detail is fair to soft and certainly not as crisp as the Dragon, Tamiya, AFV Club and Academy Tigers. That said, I built the late version some years ago and, once assembled and painted, it does not look bad at all.

The instructions are nice and clear with uncluttered drawings.

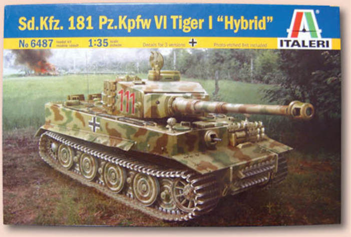
The kit itself dates from Italeri's prototype Tiger that was released about 15 years ago and then followed up with a Late Production version. As such it suffers from numerous errors and quirks that the purist will find unacceptable. The turret roof does not slot into the turret sides as we would expect, but actually contains a part of the turret sides that, when attached to the hull halves, leave a seam running around the circumference of the turret.

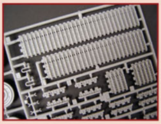
This kit is, I feel, more suited to the beginner or novice modeller. The more knowledgeable modeller will find too many errors with this kit, therefore I can only recommend it if it is to be built for fun or practice.

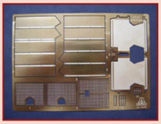
Recommended for Beginners.

Thanks to Italeri for the sample www.italeri.com

Graham Tetley


Sd.Kfz. 181 Pz.Kpfw VI Tiger I "Hybrid"
No 6487
1:35
Decals for 3 versions
Photo-etched fret included
ITALERI
111





1:35 '39-'45 SERIES
Pz.Kpfw.III Ausf.N w/Winterketten s.Pz.Abt.502 Leningrad 1943
Smart Kit
DRAGON

DRAGON

1:35 SCALE

PZ.KPFW.III AUSF N W/WINTERKETTEN S.PZ.ABT.502 LENINGRAD 1943

KIT NO. 6606

Dragon continues to maximise their moulds with this new addition to the Panzer III ranks.

The Panzer III Ausf. N used the 7.5cm gun taken from Panzer IVs that had been re-equipped with the 7.5cm main armament. Most Ausf. Ns were based on re-manufactured Ausf. J & L hulls and Dragon capture these alterations in this kit. Many of these vehicles were used by some of the earliest Tiger battalions, so this will go nicely with the early Tiger kit 6600.

The only plastic parts in this box that are totally new are the Winterketten tracks and ice cleats. The decal sheet is also new and provides markings for two different vehicles from s.Pz.Abt.502, Leningrad front, in late 1942 and early 1943.

As we have come to expect from Dragon, the parts are flash free and contain no blemishes. In fact I cannot find a single pin mark that is not hidden from view. Test fitting of the main components revealed no issues, detail is crisp and plentiful and, as this is not a '3-in-1' kit, the instructions are very easy to follow.

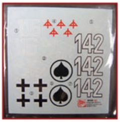
If you like your Panzer IIIs, then this is a must have, especially with the lovely tracks.

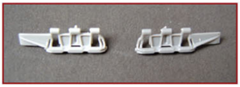
Highly Recommended.

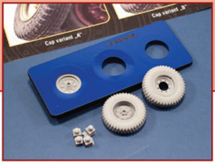
Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample www.hobbyco.net

Graham Tetley

Magic Track







QUICK WHEEL

SD.KFZ 251 AND 11 WHEELS AND MASKS • ITEM NO. QWX-009

I often think that we are living in the golden age of model making. Almost every day we are spoiled with new kits, new photo-etched sets, new figures and all kinds of accessories. But what really makes me say that we are living the golden age are items like the QWX-009 from Quick Wheel from Poland.

This set contains two front wheels and a spare wheel for the Sd.Kfz. 251 or Sd.Kfz. 11 (Dunlop version). Besides the wheels, we are even presented with Quick Wheel's ultra useful mask for this type of wheel.

We can choose between the cap variant "A" or "B" and the A4 one page instructions are very clear and full color.

The resin wheels feature flawless casting. The detail is ultra fine and they will certainly improve any Sd.Kfz. 251 or 11 model.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Quick Wheel for the sample http://quickwheel.istore.pl/

Jose Brito

LIFECOLOR

MASTER MIXER • ITEM NO. MX

Lifecolor has released a simple but interesting aid for modellers who like to use their own blends of colours on their models.

The Lifecolor Master Mixer set comprises six reusable plastic pots with wide screw-top lids; six blank labels, three pipettes for transferring paint from their original bottles to the plastic pots; test cards to check your colours and a "master dropper"; a screw-like device to apply the paint mixture to the test cards.

The set should be appropriate for all types of paint – acrylic, enamels and lacquers – but don't mix between these different types!

This is a convenient set for modellers who want to apply customised colours.

Recommended.

Thanks to The Airbrush Company for the sample www.airbrushes.com

Brett Green

MASTER MIXER
FILL THEM WITH YOUR EXPERIENCE!
LIFECOLOR

ALBION ALLOYS

MICRO BRASS TUBE AND SQUARE BRASS TUBE

Sometimes a model kit does not have enough detail. Sometimes even a resin or photo-etched detail set is not available for your wish-list project. Sometimes an exotic kit or conversion is just too expensive to contemplate. On any of these occasions, modellers always have the option of doing it themselves.

In addition to plastic card and strip, one of the most useful categories of DIY material is metal tube.

Albion Alloys deals in a wide selection of metal products for applications ranging all the way up to power stations. They also offer precision brass tube that is ideal for modelling applications in general, and for detailing and conversions in particular.

Albion's Micro Brass Tube is available from diameters as small as 0.3mm, with an inside tube diameter of 0.12mm.

The tube sizes are telescoping, so they are very useful to use together for gun barrels, mounts and other applications.

Another very handy material is Albion Alloy's Square Brass Tube, available in outside diameters from 1.6mm to 6.35mm.

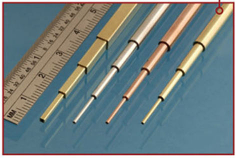
Albion Alloys also offers brass C channel, brass strip and metal sheets.

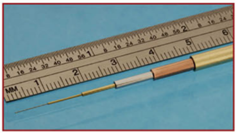
Check out Albion Alloys' website for their full range of metal tube and other helpful modelling materials.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Albion Alloys for the sample www.albionalloys.co.uk

Brett Green





LIFECOLOR Camouflage Series UA 231 RAL 3009
UA 232 RAL 1015
UA 233 RAL 7009
UA 234 RAL 5012
UA 235
UA 236
AXIS TANK INTERIORS

LIFECOLOR

AXIS TANK INTERIORS

ITEM NO. CS 22

Lifecolor has been bringing us many paint sets of late, covering a great range of subjects. Here is another to add to the collection.

This set gives you six acrylic colours to paint your Axis tank interiors.

The colours are UA231 German Oxide; UA232 German Elfenbein; UA233 German Graugrun; UA234 German Lichtblau; UA235 Italian Rosso Minio; UA236 Italian Bianco Avorio.

These will be great to apply with either a paintbrush or an airbrush, and can be thinned with Lifecolor thinners, or water.

This is a great set that is definitely worth having, especially for those who love doing those impressive interior sets available. Nice stuff.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to The Airbrush Company for the sample www.airbrushes.com

Andrew Judson

48th 1:48 Scale - A round-up of the latest news and releases

A SILLY CALL TO ARMS (WELL, IT IS THE HOLIDAY SEASON)

The so-called silly season is upon us so I thought I might be silly. I would like you to read this in your best angry inner voice:

"I'm as mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore!

Brothers and sisters, I propose that we as a group send e-mails, write letters and cause all sorts of righteous trouble with the manufacturers of plastic kits. How does the saying go? The squeaky wheel gets the oil. Yea verily, we want oil and we want it now!

Like many others, I would love to see Dragon enter the 1:48 scale game. I would be thrilled to have Hasegawa expand their line, It would be heaven for the revamped Airfix give 1:48 scale a go.

Imagine if you will a line of 1:48 scale Hornet heads! Or indeed ICM releasing new figure sets. It is time to stand up and make a noise. It is time to rise up and call for change. It is time to get what we want. Our 1:35 and 1:72 scale brethren have a vast array of choice and I say to you, so should we!

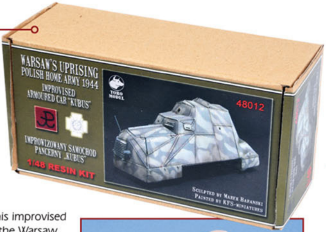
We need to start building more, we need to start entering more competitions, and we need to get noticed more. We need to convert the ignorant, we need change, brothers and sisters, and we need it now"

Well that's it for this year. After that bit of silliness. I think I need a nice hot cup of tea and a good lie down!

Have a good holiday everyone.

Until next time

Luke Pitt



TORO MODELS

"KUBUS" ARMOURED CAR

The so-called Kubus armoured car was a product of Polish troops in the Powisie region and was made on a Chevrolet chassis. The armoured plates were sourced from a destroyed safe deposit box factory before the Warsaw Uprising in 1944.

The Polish home army used this improvised armoured car in an attack on the Warsaw University buildings. The sole example is now on the grounds of the Wojska Museum in Poland.

This new 1:48 scale kit from Toro models is, in a word, superb.

Toro Models' 1:48 scale Kubus comprises 27 very well cast pink resin parts and 2 turned brass parts. The main body is cast as one piece and is hollow.

The ladder chassis is cast as one piece, onto which the leaf springs and transmission are mounted.

Generally, on a vehicle of this type, manufactures tend to cut corners with the tyres and hubs, but on this model the hubs and the tyres in particular are very well detailed. The tyres exhibit a very finely and well done tread pattern.

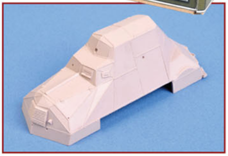
The model is simple but very well done. My only criticism is that the weld marks on the hull may be a little overdone; and the front armoured grille is a little heavy. The grille will be an easy fix with plastic card if you so desire but the icing on the cake is the camouflage finish, a light grey on a dark grey base that looks stunning when complete.

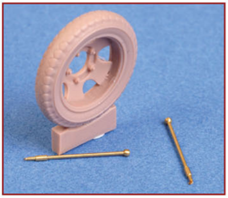
Of note are the instructions, they cover a mere four pages but are packed with useful information and are both clear and precise.

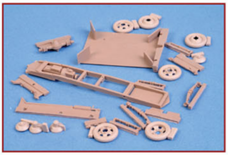
Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Toro Models for the review sample www.toro-model.home.pl/pliki/english.htm

Luke Pitt







TANK WORKSHOP

SHERMAN TURRETS

Tank Workshop has released six turrets to go with the hulls examined in Issue 56 of Model Military International. They are:

- TWS48025: M4 Arsenal Reworked Turret
- TWS48027: M4 1943 Early Turret without pistol port
- TWS48028: M4 1943 Late Turret with pistol port
- TWS48029: M4 High Bustle Turret with oval loaders hatch
- TWS48030: M4 High Bustle howitzer Turret with oval loaders hatch and barrel
- TWS48031: M4 Early T -23 Turret with round loaders hatch

All of the turrets in this series come in two pieces (except the T23 turret) and are very well cast. The turrets come complete with all the mantelet covers and hatch assemblies. The T23 turret is semi-solid cast and again comes with all the mounting hardware provided. The mantelet cover on the T23 one is a little too rounded to my eye and would best be flattened out and squared up.

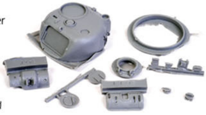
Otherwise, the all important turret shape is very well done as too is the textured effect on the turrets themselves.

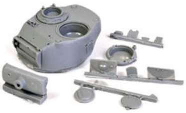
In effect, you could produce basically any Sherman turret fielded in WWII with this selection.

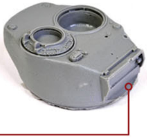
Highly Recommended.

Thanks to The Tank Workshop for the samples www.tankworkshop.com

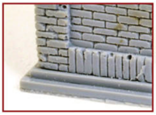
Luke Pitt

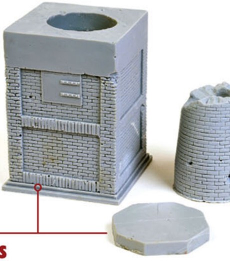






MASTERPIECE
MODELS
Factory Chimney
48th Scale
MMND003





MASTERPIECE MODELS

FACTORY CHIMNEY ITEM NO. MMND003

Masterpiece Models has ventured into the diorama field with this release - and it is huge!

The master was made by Nicolas Smata and is cast in grey resin. The chimney represents a bombed out and destroyed unit that would not look out of place in any destroyed factory diorama from any period up to the 1960s.

The kit comes complete in three resin pieces. The casting on my example was only fair, with small pinholes in evidence on all surfaces of the main block unit but none on the smoke stack. I would have liked the brickwork pattern to have continued on the inside surface of smoke stack wall but as some of these units were lined this is a forgivable omission.

The pinholes in the main block unit are probably also forgivable as the chimney represents a damaged unit and as such the holes can be reamed out with a knife blade to represent bullet damage or shrapnel.

In summary, this is a big and impressive diorama accessory and would look stunning in the right setting.

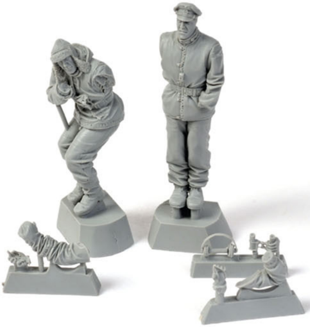
Recommended.

Thanks to Masterpiece Models for the review sample www.masterpiecemodels.com

Luke Pitt

MMI 1:48 Scale Q&A with Sergey Traviansky from Evolution Miniatures

Sergey Tranviansky is the creative force behind Evolution Miniatures. He is 34 years old and has been sculpting figures for a mere four years. He is, in my opinion, a huge talent and with the combination of great skill and a new technique of reducing his 1:35 scale figures he has opened up a whole new dimension in the 1:48 scale figure field. It is pleasing then he has found some time to discuss his views on 1:48 scale modelling with us.



THE INTERVIEW

Luke: Sergey, I understand that you are fond of modern figures. What era of figures do you like to sculpt the most?

Sergey: ***First of all Luke, I'd like you thank you for interviewing me. We, Russian modellers don't (at the best of times) get much exposure in the west. I do not have a specific favorite as such, but I do have a great interest in the "theme of modern conflicts" as opposed to ancient conflicts. I think this is reflected in my sculpts.***

Luke: What scale (size) do you like to sculpt in the most?

Sergey: ***I generally like to sculpt in 1:35 scale. It is the process rather than the scale that interests me the most.***

Luke: What is the most challenging thing about sculpting figures in 1/48 scale?

Sergey: ***I don't really sculpt in 1:48 scale Luke. The figures that are released in 1:48 by Evolution are done in 1:35 scale and reduced by a technology that I would rather not elaborate on at this stage. Suffice to say it seems to work.***

Luke: What do you think makes your 1:48 figures so realistic? What features are really important to get right?

Sergey: ***Proportions and anatomy. In my opinion, a figure in any scale without these key ingredients is not going to be any good.***

Luke: What future do you see for 1:48 scale AFV modelling?

Sergey: ***Any scale is only as good as the people who participate in it. 1:48 scale modellers seem, in my view, to be a very friendly and creative bunch. I hold great hopes for this scale and like you believe the scale needs more decent figures to really reach its potential.***

Luke: How much bench time does it take you to produce a 1:48 figure?

Sergey: ***I have no idea really. I do not time myself! All I can say is that I really enjoy myself when I do it and the time seems to fly by. I am lucky. My passion is my hobby and I am happy with that.***

Luke: Who are your influences as a sculptor?

Sergey: ***The human form is my big influence really. I admire many sculptors out there at the moment.***

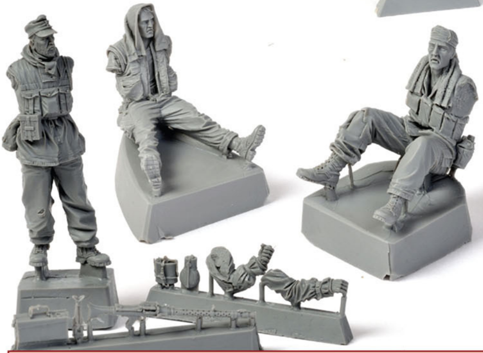
Luke: It is my belief that we need a lot more quality 1:48 scale AFV figures. What are some subjects you think should be done?

Sergey: ***At this stage, our plan is that anything we do in 1:35 will be reduced to 1:48 scale. I fully support your push for more 1:48 scale releases. We will try to do our part to make this happen.***

Luke: What parting advice (apart from having fun) would you give our 1:48 scale readers?

Sergey: ***Be creative and enjoy yourself.***

Luke: Thanks for your time Sergy. I admire your skill.

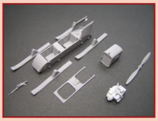


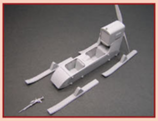
NEWS

The ongoing amount of new release subjects seems to just grow with smaller producers showing real imagination with their subject choices, some of which include:

SLINGSHOT MINIATURES RF8 (GAS 298) SOVIET AEROSAN

This kit should be available by the time you read this column and is mastered by Constantions Papagergiou.





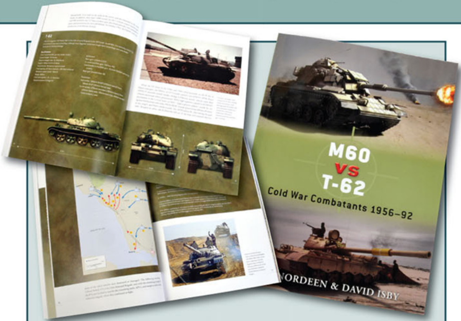
DEJUGUETE RAILWAY KIOSK KIT 48114

The model is cast in resin with laser cut windows. If it is anything like their previously released buildings it should be superb. Dejuguetes website may be found here www.dejuguete.es

TECHMOD 1:48 DECALS

Techmod has re-released their quite excellent Tiger I and Allied Stars in both yellow and white. If you missed out on these the first time round, I suggest you get them now as they are a very high quality product.

Book Reviews



M60 VS. T-62 COLD WAR COMBATANTS 1956-92

DAVID ISBY AND LON NORDEEN
OSPREY PUBLISHING • ISBN: 978-1-84603-694-1

The latest title in Osprey Publishing's growing "Duel" series is "M60 vs. T-62, Cold War Combatants 1956-92". The book is presented over 80 pages in Osprey's familiar small portrait format.

The M60 and the T-62 were developed by the USA and the Soviet Union as interim solutions to address new Cold War threats challenging the older M48 and T-54/55 tanks. Despite their temporary intentions, both of these vehicles went on to serve in front-line service for more than three decades. It is also worth noting that the biggest engagements between these tanks were not between their developers, the USA and the Soviet Union; but between Israeli and Arab customers of these superpowers.

In common with other books in the series, this 30th Duel title covers the design and development of both tanks then goes on to discuss several key engagements. In the case of the T-62 and the M60, these are the Battle of Chinese Farm between Israel and Egypt in 1973; and1991's Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, which saw USMC M60A1s in compat with Iraqi T-62s. Between these widely-spaced engagements, the authors describe the post-1973 developments of the M60 and T-62 tanks.

The book includes a large number of well-captioned photos, mostly in black and white but some in colour. However, a number of these photos are quite small. This is partially the fault of Osprey's house layout style, which allocates the equivalent of only two-thirds of a page-width in text. This results in a lot of empty white space that might otherwise be used for more or larger photographs.

The text is interspersed with colour artwork including three-view profiles of the T-62 and the M60, cutaway diagrams, maps and more.

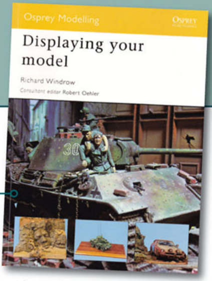
The book is rounded out with a brief conclusion. Although both of the major engagements between the M60 and the T-62 were massively lop-sided, with the T-62 being wiped out in large numbers, the results probably had as much to do with tactics, training and gunnery as the relative merits of the basic vehicles.

Osprey's Duel Series "M60 vs. T-62" is an interesting and succinct examination of these two important Cold War combatants.

Recommended.

Thanks to Osprey Publishing for the sample www.opsreypublishing.com

Brett Green



OSPREY MODELLING NO 44
DISPLAYING YOUR MODEL

RICHARD WINDROW
OSPREY PUBLISHING
ISBN: 978-1-84603-416-9

Osprey's modelling series has been around for nearly ten years now, and this book is number 44 in a long list of titles covering all facets of the modelling hobby. This title is devoted to something most modellers often do not often consider - displaying the finished product.

Like other titles in this range, this book covers the basics and follows a few projects to give the reader a broad range of methods and ideas spread across a number of modelling genres.

This book is divided into Chapters covering:

- Approaches and Choices
- "Ozymandias"
- Gothic Knight
- Safari Rally
- Bases and Cases
- Light Boxes
- Framed Displays
- False Perspective
- Cutaway
- Gallery
- Appendix
- Index

Bases and cases

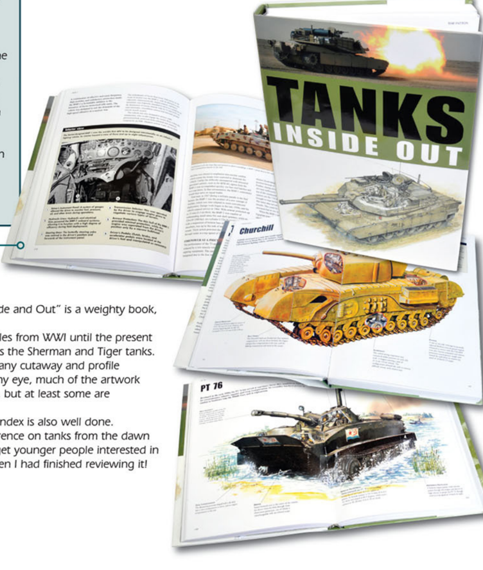
The text is concise but informative and well supported by good colour photos showing the finished product and the steps taken in construction. An excellent Gallery of many well-known modellers is worth the price of the title alone.

Osprey Publishing's "Displaying Your Model" is a great book for modellers who really want to get the best out of that long running project or just feel the need for some inspiration.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Osprey Publishing for the sample www.ospreypublishing.com

Al Bowie



TANKS INSIDE AND OUT

MICHAEL E. HASKEW
AMBER BOOKS LIMITED • ISBN: 978-1-906843-13-0

At 320 pages, with a hard cover and dimensions of 23.5 x 32 cm, "Tanks Inside and Out" is a weighty book, but the material inside is covered more in breadth than in depth.

We are presented with information on 52 different families of armoured vehicles from WWI until the present day. Each vehicle receives six pages of coverage, even milestone marks such as the Sherman and Tiger tanks. Large and useful photos of the vehicles in service are provided, along with many cutaway and profile colour illustrations. The quality and style of the illustrations varies widely. To my eye, much of the artwork is reminiscent of the type presented in picture books of the 1960s and 1970s, but at least some are undoubtedly new as they cover vehicles as modern as the Challenger 2.

The book is presented on quality paper and is logically laid out. The detailed Index is also well done.

"Tanks Inside and Out" will be appropriate if you are looking for a broad reference on tanks from the dawn of rolling armour until the present day. I think it may also be a good way to get younger people interested in tanks. My ten-year-old son was happily leafing his way through the book when I had finished reviewing it!

Recommended.

Thanks to Casemate UK for the sample www.casematepublishing.co.uk

Brett Green

Valentine Tank
Walk Around
David Doyle
Squadron/Signal
Squadron/Signal

VALENTINE TANK WALK AROUND

DAVID DOYLE

SQUADRON SIGNAL PUBLICATIONS • ISBN: 978-0-89747-621-8

The latest in Squadron's iconic "Walk Around" series covers the Valentine tank. Timing for this release could not be better with MiniArt's Valentines Mk.II and IV kits now available.

The book comprises 88 pages in landscape format between soft covers. David Doyle is the author, and he does a good job with fulfilling the promise of the title – the Valentine tank is photographically covered from stem to stern in loving detail.

The first few pages offer brief historical summary and six wartime photographs. The balance of the book delivers walk around reference photos in full colour of three tanks – A Valentine Mk.III, a Mk.VI and a Mk.IX. This is a useful combination of vehicles, as the Mk.III demonstrates the features of the small two-man turret, the Mk.VI is fitted with the three-man turret and the Mk.IX has the 6 pdr turret.

Photos are not limited to the exterior of the vehicles. The fighting compartment, driver's position and radio are covered too.

Two pages of photos of a Valentine Duplex Drive are also included on the last two pages.

Three-view line drawings of the Valentine Mk.I and Mk.III are provided towards the rear of the book.

Interspersed amongst the photos are several colour profiles of Valentines in British and New Zealand service.

Don Greer's full-page cover artwork on the front and the rear is as attractive and inspiring as ever.

Squadron's Valentine Tank Walk Around will be a helpful reference for anyone building MiniArt's new Valentine Mk.II or Mk.IV.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to ADH Books for the sample www.adhbooks.com

Brett Green

Allied-Axis
THE PHOTO JOURNAL OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR
40mm GMC M19
25

ALLIED-AXIS THE PHOTO JOURNAL OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR ISSUE 25

DAVID DOYLE AND CHRIS HUGHES

THE AMPERSAND PUBLISHING GROUP

Allied-Axis: The Photo Journal of the Second World War is a dedicated reference magazine from Ampersand Publishing of the USA.

This 96-page, soft cover publication is published four times a year, and typically contains between four and six chapters on disparate WWII vehicles.

David Doyle's cover story for Issue 25 is the 40mm Gun Motor Carriage M19. This vehicle was based on the chassis of the M24 Chaffee, fitted with twin 40mm anti-aircraft guns in an open-topped traversable turret. This is a fascinating vehicle that seems to owe much to the German design approach for self-propelled guns.

In the end, the M19 was too late to see front-line service in the Second World War, but it did serve in Korea. Although its anti-aircraft role was limited by the lack of aircraft targets, the 40mm dual automastic M2 was used with devastating effect against ground targets.

This opening Chapter covers the first 29 pages of the book using a combination of large, well produced and helpfully captioned images of the vehicle in development and in action; plus detailed walkaround photos of a rare surviving M19A1.

Next up is a photo-essay by Chris "Toadman" Hughes on a restored Panther Ausf. A.

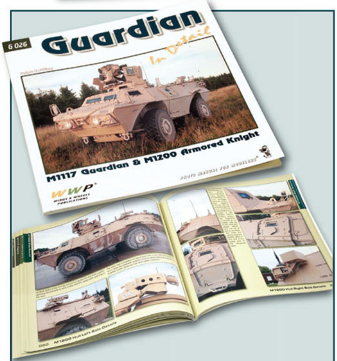
David Doyle then provides the remaining four Chapters on the General Electric 60" Searchlight, the Sd.Kfz. 222 armoured car, the Ford Bomb Truck and six pages (and a full-colour photo on the rear cover) on the Ford Fordor Staff Car. This will be very handy for anyone building the 1:48 scale Tamiya kit.

Allied-Axis follows a simple but very useful formula, providing a great deal of detailed reference material via large, well reproduced photographs and detailed captions. The series is ideal for modellers, and should provide ample inspiration as well as information.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Ampersand Publishing for the sample www.ampersandpubco.com

Brett Green



GUARDIAN IN DETAIL

RALPH ZWILLING

WINGS AND WHEELS PUBLICATIONS

ISBN: 978-80-86416-88-5

Are you a fan of modern war vehicles? Are you a super detail addict? Are you an enthusiast of great books? Do you have the new Trumpeter Guardian kit in your closet? Then you must have this new publication from Wings & Wheels Publications.

Their new book "Guardian in detail - M1117 Guardian and M1200 Armored Knight" is a must have.

When WWP says "in detail" they really mean it. The book, delivered over

94 pages, presents ultra clear and detailed pictures of both vehicles. This title includes hundreds of pictures covering hull details, roof details, crew members, interior compartment and exterior UGWS details, basket and interior details.

The Power Assisted Cupola Details walk around from the M1200 is very well done and full of nice details. The same comments apply for the armoured plates, MG mounts and rear, front and roof details.

The M1200 Cupola Turret basket is also nicely presented.

In the final pages we are presented with scale drawings and technical data of the M1200.

Highly Recommended.

Many thanks to WWP for the review sample www.wwpbooks.com

Jose Brito

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Next Issue

On sale January 6th 2011

SPIRIT OF 76

Sam Dwyer builds and Brett Green paints the new 1:35 scale M4A3(76)W Sherman; while Bruce Culver supplies a fascinating Think Tank reference piece.

MARDER IID MAX!

Thomas Morgan is back with Part Two of his 1:35 scale rebuilt and superdetailed Marder III Ausf. D.

WHO DARES WINS

Marcus Nicholls places his SAS Jeeps in a desert setting with figures.

MAKING FLAGS AND ROLLS

Luke Pitt outlines some techniques for creating convincing flags, packs, rolls and other stowage for your military models using Milliput and some common household items...

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

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- STOP PRESS -

TAMIYA'S 1:48 JAGDTIGER

TAMIYA
Panzerjäger "Jagdtiger" Sd.Kfz.186 Frühe Produktion
1/48

At over 75 tons, the Jagdtiger was the heaviest armoured vehicle to see service in the Second World War. Its 128mm PaK 44 L/55 gun was a devastating weapon and armour of the superstructure was up to 250mm thick. Despite these imposing statistics, the Jagdtiger's unmistakably high profile, limited mobility and poor mechanical reliability reduced its role to that of a mobile pillbox.

Tamiya released their first 1:35 scale Henschel Jagdtiger kit way back in 1975. That was a typical kit of its day – not especially accurate nor well detailed, and it was easily surpassed by the more recent Dragon Jagdtiger family. The biggest complaint about the newer Dragon kits was their intricate five part track links.

Tamiya launched an all-new 1:35 scale Jagdtiger in 2009, and it was in a different class. Cleverly engineered, easy to build, accurate and nicely detailed, it was everything that we have come to expect from a new Tamiya kit.

1:48 scale fans had to make do with the old, rare and not terribly accurate Bandai Jagdtiger.

Until now.

Tamiya has delivered a brand-new 1:48 scale Jadgtiger comprising 189 parts in dark yellow plastic, six metal strips and markings for three vehicles.

In common with the initial 1:35 scale release, this kit represents an early production Henschel model with four spare track hangers on each side of the superstructure.

The first thing I noticed was that the lower hull was not metal. Tamiya has listened to modellers who did not like the earlier style of die-cast hull by designing this kit with a plastic assembly made up from a separate bottom, sides and rear. The suspension arms are moulded directly onto the sides of the lower hull.

For those who did like the weight of the die-cast hull, Tamiya has supplied four optional metal strips that may be secured to the floor of the lower hull to suggest the scale load of 71 tonnes.

The upper hull is moulded as one main piece, minus the front and rear of the fighting compartment. The big twin doors in the back of the fighting compartment are provided as separate parts, but there is no interior detail behind the doors or inside the vehicle. The handles are moulded solid too, but it will be a simple matter to carve these off and replace them with bent wire.

The three other crew hatches are also separate parts, which is handy as two partial crew figures are provided. They are moulded from the chest up, so they will just poke out of their respective hatches – probably the safest idea this late in the war! The figures are very nicely detailed.

The big mantlet is moulded with convincing cast texture. Tow cables, cleaning rods, track guards and mudguards are all provided. An optional anti-aircraft machine gun and mount are also included as an option for the rear deck.

The wheels will be glued to the suspension arms, but the drive sprockets are secured with polythene caps. This will make it easier to line up the teeth to the link and length plastic tracks when they are glued in place. The tracks are supplied in a variety of long and short runs. If previous experience is anything to go by, they should be quite straightforward to assemble.

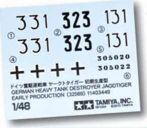
Markings are supplied for three well-known Jagdtigers from 653 Heavy Anti-Tank Battalion. Check your references carefully to make up your own mind about the camouflage and whether they actually featured the spotty ambush scheme.

Tamiya has served up another great kit for 1:48 scale modellers. This Jagdtiger should be even easier to build than its 1:35 scale stable mate, and it will be eagerly welcomed by the in-between scalers.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Tamiya for the sample
www.tamiya.com ■

Brett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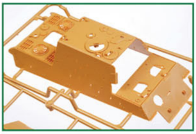

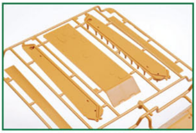

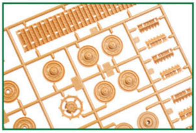

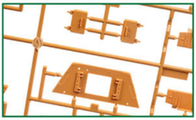

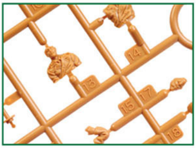

YOU CAN'T WIN THEM ALL...

Johan from Bison Decals has emailed to let me know that recent research has revealed that the New Zealand 3 Troop Firefly on his decal sheet, as used by me in the last issue of MMI, is not 'Dopi Voi'. It is actually another vehicle from same troop. Oh well. This is probably a good excuse for me to build another Kiwi Firefly in Italy!

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Search for Tamiya on the App Store to download the magazines!

Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL
DOPO VOI
THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE

State of the Art

The World's most supreme quality spray paint for plastics is back.

Tamiya's TS has been completely reformulated to deliver an improved quality and finish that even surpasses the previous high standards that Tamiya was famous for.

The new paint has been extensively tested after long term storage in extremes of hot and cold temperatures and Tamiya engineers report being delighted with the enhanced quality level that has been achieved.

The new formulation is also fully compliant with all current and forthcoming EEC regulations – a vital claim in this world of ever-stricter regulation of chemical products.

85 colours have now been reformulated and of these 54 will be hitting the model shop shelves in mid October. The balance should be in place before the end of the year.

Look out for the new improved TS Sprays for Plastic from Tamiya – and experience for yourself the state of the art paint finish !

TS Availability Summary

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🟦	85052	TS-52 Candy Lime Green (Kawasaki)
🟦	85053	TS-53 Deep Metallic Blue
🟦	85054	TS-54 Light Metallic Blue
🟦	85055	TS-55 Dark Blue
🟦	85056	TS-56 Brilliant Orange
🟦	85057	TS-57 Violet Blue
🟦	85058	TS-58 Pearl light Blue
🟦	85059	TS-59 Pearl Light Red
🟦	85060	TS-60 Pearl Green
🟨	85061	TS-61 NATO Green
🟦	85062	TS-62 Nato Brown
🟦	85063	TS-63 Nato Black
🟦	85064	TS-64 Dark Mica Blue
🟨	85065	TS-65 Pearl Clear
🟨	85066	TS-66 IJN Grey Kure
🟦	85067	TS67 IJN Grey [Sasebo]
🟨	85068	TS-68 Wooden Deck Tan
🟦	85069	TS69 Linoleum Deck Brown
🟦	85070	TS-70 Olive Drab (JGSDF)
🟨	85071	TS-71 Smoke
🟨	85072	TS-72 Clear Blue
🟨	85073	TS-73 Clear Orange
🟨	85074	TS-74 Clear Red
🟨	85075	TS-75 Champagne Gold
🟨	85076	TS-76 Mica Silver
🟨	85077	TS-77 Flat Flesh
🟨	85078	TS-78 Field Grey
🟨	85079	TS-79 Semi Gloss Clear
🟨	85080	TS-80 Flat Clear
🟦	85081	TS-81 Royal Light Grey
🟦	85082	TS-82 Rubber Black
🟨	85083	TS-83 Metallic Silver
🟨	85084	TS-84 Metallic Gold
🟦	85085	TS-85 Bright Mica Red

🟨 Colours highlighted in yellow are now available. Others due in mid December.

Tamiya products are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, MK5 8PG
See the full Tamiya range at www.hobbyco.net
Tamiya products are available from all good model shops

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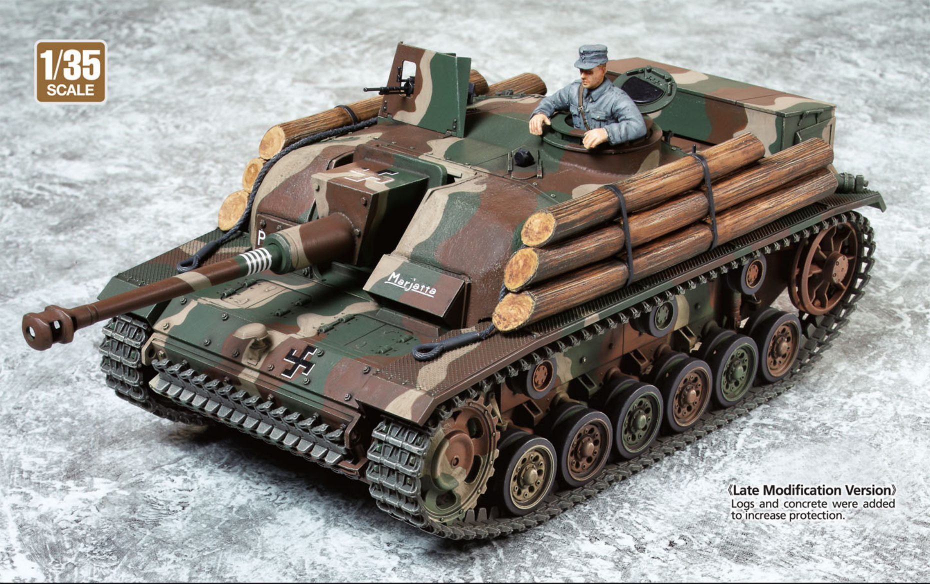
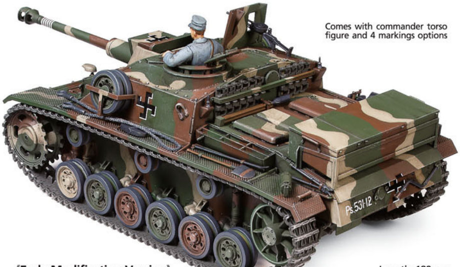


《Late Modification Version》
Logs and concrete were added to increase protection.

Finnish Defiance

1/35 Scale Sturmgeschütz III Ausf.G "Finnish Army" Item 35310

During WWII, Finland mustered its inadequately-equipped military to stand up to Russia's overwhelming invasion forces. 59 Sturmgeschütz III Ausf.G assault guns purchased from Germany played a pivotal role in defending the country against the fierce attacks of the Russian tanks. Finnish StuG IIIs underwent two rounds of modifications which gave them a different appearance than the German version, and Tamiya has captured all of these differences with this latest 1/35 Scale Military Miniatures Series release. The kit comes with new parts, including ones which accurately depict the logs mounted on the vehicle sides and the concrete armor applied to the vehicle's frontal area. A torso figure to depict the commander is also included and helps convey the steadfast determination displayed by Finnish forces during the defense of their homeland.



Comes with commander torso figure and 4 markings options

《Early Modification Version》
A Russian-made DT machine gun and a storage box on the engine deck were added.

Length: 189mm

Choose to assemble either early or late modification versions

Sturmgeschütz III Ausf.G "FINNISH ARMY"

★Image shows assembled and painted model kit.

1/35 Scale German Sturmgeschütz III Ausf.G Early Version
Item 35197

1/35
SCALE

Length: 195mm

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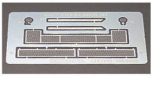
Detail-Up Parts



1/35 Scale StuG III Photo-Etched Grille Set
Item 35199

Featuring engine intake and exhaust grilles, this set will give your model an even more realistic finish.

Early-WWII Russian Infantry Figures Join the Fray

Item 35311

This set of 5 figures depicts Russian infantry in the style of field uniform which was worn up to 1943. Match them with the BT-7 or other early-WWII Russian tanks for a dynamic diorama.

1/35 Scale Russian Assault Infantry (1941-1942)

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